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Inter-Arab Affairs

Gulf Cooperation Council Summit Held in Muscat

King Fahd Arrives in Oman

LD1812134989 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1210 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Muscat, 18 Dec, (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, arrived in Muscat this afternoon to lead the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's delegation to the 10th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council Supreme Council, which begins later today. He was welcomed at the airport by HM [His Majesty] Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, ruler of Oman.

Arrival Statements Issued

JN1812152289 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Excerpts] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id this evening opens the proceedings at the Qasr al-Bustan Hotel of the 10th session of the Supreme Council of heads of state of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC].

Their majesties and highnesses, the leaders of the GCC countries, arrived in the country this afternoon. Upon their arrival at the airport, their majesties and highnesses were accorded state reception ceremonies, with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id leading the welcoming party. [passage omitted] For further details, we now go to the Qasr al-Bustan Hotel for a report:

[Unidentified reporter] This evening, their majesties and highnesses the leaders of the GCC are about to begin the 10th session of the Supreme Council of the heads of state of the GCC, with His Majesty Sultan Bin-Sa'id in the chair. [passage omitted]

Upon their arrival, their majesties and highnesses released statements to the press. Amir of Qatar His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani said he is proud that in less than 9 years the GCC has scored many internationally acclaimed successes on national, regional, Arab, and global levels.

The statement by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan of the United Arab Emirates said that this session holds the prospect of common action in the interest of stepped-up regional security and stability. The summit also holds out the promise of further developing the region's indigenous resources.

His Highness 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, said he is highly confident that the GCC summit will adopt resolutions that will further reinforce joint ~~action and open~~ up new horizons of political, educational, and social cooperation.

In his statement, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, noted that this 10th GCC session marks an extension of preceding conferences through which we have devised frameworks for economic, political, cultural, and social cooperation, in addition to security, defense, industrial, and informational cooperation. He noted that this cooperation is designed to promote our people's aspirations and assure our shared interests, which are inspired by our tolerant Islamic creed from which we draw pride and strength. The achievements of the GCC over the past few years should be an inspiration for us to further consolidate our cooperation in the spirit of both the Arab League Charter and the Islamic Conference Organization, his majesty added. We hope that our meetings will produce the kind of resolutions that give added strength to our council in the midst of significant international changes necessitating purposeful teamwork on our part in the interest of comprehensive development and firmly-based security and stability. [passage omitted]

First Closed Session Begins 18 Dec

LD1812182689 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1725 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Muscat, 18 Dec (SPA)—Their majesties and highnesses, the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] leaders, have held the first closed session in Muscat, at 1930, 2030 Muscat time, this evening at the beginning of the proceedings of the 10th session of the GCC Supreme Council.

The first session will be devoted to approving the agenda and listening to the report of the council's secretary general about the achievements of the council during the period between the 9th and 10th sessions.

Qabus Addresses Summit

JN1812194689 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1640 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Opening speech by Omani Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id to the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council's 10th session in Muscat on 18 December—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. My Brothers, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and Your Royal Highnesses, leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] states, Your Highnesses and Excellencies, members of the delegations:

We are very happy to welcome you in Oman to this historic meeting which is a joyful occasion for us and for the Omani people. On this occasion, we celebrate and express our sincere welcome and the love we feel for you and your great people. We are also very happy that this gathering, which comes within the framework of the 10th session that our entire Gulf family is celebrating, will be replete with joy and optimism that our continuous meetings will realize our ambitions of strong cooperation yielding great and positive results.

My Brothers, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and Your Highnesses, the great and sincere efforts we exerted together in the previous sessions of our Council and throughout almost 10 years had their positive effect on the important steps we took to entrench the bases of cooperation in various fields. They raised this cooperation to a progressive level, thanks be to God. It also gave our council the opportunity to play a prominent role receiving a great response from our people. It also has received the appreciation and admiration of all international milieus.

As we meet here in this 10th session of our council, we are pleased to hail the fraternal spirit that set the scene for our march to take the correct path in a joint experience characterized by strong links among our people and constructive understanding to solve our issues and interests within a framework of objective frankness and honest desire to render this experience a success.

Today, we are in the process of evaluating our march and expanding its scope in various fields. We are also on the threshold of a new stage where the world around us is witnessing political and economic changes. These transformations are forcing us to reformulate many theories, concepts, and situations long prevalent in the international arena. We also must study the long-term effects this has on the international community, which seeks to accommodate these changes. Various countries also are seeking to adapt to them in accordance with policies that realize their interests.

Because we all care that the GCC has a developed role and effective presence in this changing world, this without doubt necessitates new policies whose implementation and planning will take into account these international changes to deal with them positively and in a way serving our people, maintaining their stability, and strongly linking their basic interests to contribute toward their development and progress.

In past years, we established a number of proper frameworks within which we organized joint action in various fields. We all realize that evaluating practical implementation on the grounds of reality has become a very important issue in light of the continuous changes we face in the current international circumstances and the necessary requirements of our societies dictated by their special experiences in development.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to work toward making these frameworks effective, developing them, and amending them if needed to accompany the GCC countries' demands, while always taking into account their basic interests in the various stages of development and growth. This is so that our march will avoid the negative aspects of numerous past experiences of regional cooperation in various regions of the world and continue its progress toward a bright future, God willing.

In light of this, the importance of developing and revitalizing the mechanisms of cooperation and coordination, as well as setting the structure of the council, is affirmed. This gives our joint action more vitality and flexibility. It also helps us achieve what we have always worked for, such as deepening contacts and coordination and bringing closer the efforts exerted to translate our goals of cooperation into a tangible reality that the Gulf citizen can feel.

As our council continues its dialogue with various international economic forces and groupings, this affirms all our desires for fruitful cooperation based on exchanged interests to open up the opportunity for positive interaction with these forces and groupings, which play a basic and effective role in world economy.

My Brothers, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and Your Royal Highnesses, as we work together to strengthen understanding and friendship among the nations of the region to secure their peace and stability, our council reflects its complete concern for a sincere contribution to strengthen peace and cooperation on all international levels and to serve the causes of our Arab and Islamic nations and the international community to provide them all with good results.

While we feel satisfied with the atmosphere of peace that prevails in the region following the suspension of the Iraq-Iran war, we believe that the two countries' move toward construction affirms their determination to entrench peace and provide opportunity for the United Nations to continue its efforts to resume negotiations between the two sides. In this regard, we have to refer to the continued support extended by our council for these efforts and we hope that the two countries will pave the way that negotiations will end in a permanent solution that will guarantee peaceful coexistence between their two peoples on the basis of Islamic fraternity and good neighborliness, and help entrench peace and stability in the region.

As part of our interest in supporting concerted Arab action, we must note this year's positive developments and efforts, which have breathed a new spirit into accord and cooperation among the various Arab countries. This has helped us in dealing with many issues in a spirit of concern about the general Arab welfare. We hail the honest efforts exerted by our brothers, the leaders of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Morocco, and the Republic of Algeria through the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee, which took successful steps toward solving the Lebanese crisis. We also hail the Lebanese deputies' agreement reached during their meeting in al-Ta'if under the patronage of my brother, the custodian of the two holy mosques, on the document of national accord, which has laid the groundwork for restoring legitimacy in Lebanon. We appeal to all our brothers in Lebanon to join their efforts to strengthen legitimacy and national unity so that Lebanon can be, as it has always been, a safe homeland in which peace and prosperity prevail.

Out of our belief in our pan-Arab duty to support the Palestine question, we stress the need to work without delay to find a just and honorable solution that is fair to the Palestinian people and that responds to their peace initiatives and their brave intifadah in the occupied territories—an intifadah that expresses their insistence on their right to liberation and self-determination. We also urge the international forces friendly to Israel to shoulder their responsibility and use all their effective influence to put an end to the Israeli intransigence so that a real chance can be achieved to reach a comprehensive peaceful settlement. Such a settlement must guarantee a quick end to the severe, bitter ordeals from which the Palestinian people suffer daily under the yoke of occupation. It also must restore their legitimate right to freedom and the establishment of their independent state, and this, in turn, will guarantee peace for all parties.

My Brothers, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and Your Highnesses: As our council starts the work of its 10th session, deriving help and success from Almighty God, we are fully confident that your sound opinions and your honest and brotherly efforts will result in success for this session, God willing, to contribute to our determination to achieve our noble goals in the interest of our Arabian Gulf family. Concluding our speech, we are pleased to welcome you again, wishing you a happy stay in your country, Oman. We also are pleased to thank the Ministerial Council, the permanent ministerial committees, his excellency the secretary general and his aides, and the General Secretariat for their good efforts in preparing this session. We also beseech Almighty God to take care of us and grant us success. It is He who grants success. God's blessings be upon you.

First Session Concludes

JN1812200089 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Their majesties and highnesses, the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, concluded their first closed working session this evening at the Qasr al-Bustan Palace Hotel.

During their session, the leaders listened to a detailed report presented by GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah. The report covered the activities of the council from the 9th session to the current one, in addition to many regional, Arab, and international issues.

Bush Cables GCC Leaders

JN1812202289 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] On the eve of the Supreme Council of the 10th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id received a cable from His Excellency U.S. President George Bush on the occasion of this summit's convention. He saluted the GCC leaders who today started their meetings in Muscat.

President Bush said in his cable: My country has blessed and supported the GCC since its establishment. Our support for the GCC is a manifestation of the high level of our relations with GCC states. President Bush expressed his conviction that the council can play an important and positive role not only in developing and furthering prosperity and abundance for its members, but also to push the process of peace and stability in the Gulf region. This is the goal that the United States has committed itself to turning into a reality.

The U.S. President asked his majesty the sultan to convey the United States' good wishes for success in the Gulf summit to the leaders of the GCC.

Islamic Affairs

Jeddah Conference Statement Supports Intifadah

LD0812093989 Kuwait KUNA in English 2023 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Jeddah, Dec 7 (KUNA)—The Jeddah-based Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] Thursday renewed its [word indistinct] of full support to the Palestinian people's struggle until attaining of their usurped national rights and called for an international conference on peace in the Middle East. A statement, issued here today by OIC Secretary Dr. Hamid Al-Gabid on the eve of the second anniversary of the Palestinian intifadah, on December 8, 1989, pledged unequivocal support and assistance from the 46-member organisation of Moslem states to the Palestinian people until final victory and establishment of the independent Palestinian state.

The heroes of the Palestinian intifadah, in pursuing with iron and will and for the third successive year, their resistance to the Israeli occupation forces, are writing with their blood and sacrifices a shining and glorious history for the Arab and Islamic ummah, and setting with their steadfastness the most magnificent examples of heroism and self-sacrifice, he said.

This intifadah has proved that the Palestinian people are determined to continue their struggle, whatever the sacrifices, until they chase occupation out and experience their inalienable rights on their land, the OIC secretary stressed.

The intifadah has shown to the whole world that peace in the area depends on the equal participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), their legitimate and sole representative in all conferences and political acitivities that look into the crisis in the region, and that ignoring the PLO as a fundamental party means refusing to achieve peace.

The PLO, the leader of the Palestinian struggle, proceeding from the facts imposed by the Palestinian intifadah on the international scene, has put forward its political initiatives, based on international legality and the principles laid down by the international community for bringing about peace in the region.

It is, therefore, imperative that the international community, and particularly the permanent members of the

Security Council, should shoulder their legal and historical responsibilities in taking effective measures to bring Israeli attacks to an end, to provide international protection for the Palestinian people and to force Israel to withdraw from all occupied territories as a preliminary move to make it possible for the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable national rights on their territories, the 46-member organization emphasized.

While strongly condemning the criminal Israeli practices, the OIC renewed its commitment to give full support to the Palestinian people in their just struggle.

It appeals to the international community and to peace-loving peoples to stand up for Palestinian rights and to work, by all available means, for the early convening of an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the conflict, including, on an equal footing, the Palestine Liberation Organization and based on the principle of enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable national rights, including their right of return, their right of self-determination and their right to establish their independent Palestinian state with al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital, and under the leadership of the PLO, their legitimate and sole representative.

Palestinian Affairs

PNSF Denounces Trilateral Meeting on Mideast

JN1212203389 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] The Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] has issued a statement saying: While the intifadah of our kinfolk enters its 3d year and enemy forces lose control, suspicious preparations are under way to hold a trilateral meeting of the foreign ministers of Washington, Tel Aviv, and Cairo on the basis of the Baker plan. Talk that our people will be represented at the meeting by the Egyptian minister is yet another provocation for our people and their struggle. Neither the masses of our people in all their free institutions, nor the PLO, which is commited to the resolutions of all legitimate sessions of the Palestine National Council, nor our people's uprising over 2 years of sacrifice and steadfastness have authorized anyone to speak on their behalf. Some hegemonic symbols in the PLO leadership are selling out this right.

The statement adds: We denounce the convening of this trilateral meeting and all its results, and view it as yet another link in the scheme to liquidate the cause of our people, whether through claims of representation, attempts by some Arabs involved in the scheme and certain international circles to apply extensive pressure on the PLO leadership so that it will officially abandon the right to represent our people, or through a settlement formula that ultimately perpetuates occupation and harms the rights of our people, foremost of which is their right to self-determination.

The PNSF draws the attention of all sincere Palestinian leaders and all Palestinian forces and institutions to these serious moves and urges all to rectify the situation, before it is too late, by adopting a national and responsible position blocking the way to this conspiracy.

[Signed] Palestine National Salvation Front

PLO Official Denies Link With Egypt's Reply

NC1412162289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] Palestinian official Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has denied that the PLO has any connection with the Egyptian response to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan regarding the holding of elections in the occupied Arab land.

Hamas Calls Baker Plan 'New Camp David'

JN1812182189 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] In Call No 51 distributed yesterday, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] denounced the Palestinians who played a role in the dialogue on the Baker plan. It said that Hamas has not agreed to participate in the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo negotiations; it objects to Baker's plan and terms it a new Camp David.

The call warned against the Zionist news media, which disseminated reports that various Hamas personalities have agreed to take part in the negotiations. It added that no one represents Hamas in Palestine now and that all of Hamas' stands are made public in official statements.

Hamas called for escalating the struggle and hurling firebombs and stones as a reply to the Baker plan.

Hawatimah Interviewed on PLO-Israeli Talks

TA1812133489 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 18 December 89 p 16

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by unidentified correspondent in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] Q: What do you think has happened since the Palestinian state was declared?

A: I believe the international political balance of forces has been widely and comprehensively changed in favor of the Intifadah. So far, 107 countries have recognized the State of Palestine. Many in the world believe that Palestinians have the right to an independent state, based on the acceptance of UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. The world has begun to understand that we call for peace, and we want a permanent, just, and comprehensive peace to be reached through an international conference with authority. This is clearly tangible in Western Europe. It was announced in the

Madrid EC summit. It has also been the position of the foreign ministers of Scandinavian countries. Obviously there is European understanding. It is clear to the entire world that Israel maintains the occupation.

Q: Do you support a political solution? Do you recognize Israel?

A: The Palestinian political initiative of November 1988 clearly stated that UN Resolution 181, which partitioned Palestine, is the basis for a settlement. The problem here is there is no Palestinian state. The struggle is ongoing to build the State of Palestine.

This necessitates a balanced and comprehensive solution under the auspices of the United Nations with international guarantees from the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

The recognition must be mutual (by the PLO and Israel), not only from one side. We are prepared for such a mutual declaration of recognition by the PLO and Israel. For Palestinians to recognize Israel, while Israel maintains an absolute denial of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and statehood, is something unrealistic.

We in the PLO are prepared for talks with the government of Israel. The decisions made by Palestine Central Council in Baghdad in the middle of October clearly stated that the PLO is ready for direct negotiations with Israel.

The PLO reserves the right to nominate members of the Palestinian delegation from inside and outside the occupied territories. The agenda to the meeting must be open and without preconditions. The meeting is to be held under UN auspices and with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council. This would be part of the preparations for the international peace conference.

Meanwhile, (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Shamir's plan, the Egyptian 10 points, and (U.S. Secretary of State James) Baker's plan ignore the PLO's right to nominate the members of the Palestinian delegation. The three plans limit the power to represent the Palestinian people to only residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This is obviously a cancellation of the PLO's role. Therefore, I say that all these plans are incomplete. They do not acknowledge the basic right of the Palestinian people to represent themselves in the talks at the negotiating table.

Q: Is it possible for 'Arafat to decide and implement his decisions?

A: The PLO is an umbrella for the political spectrum and social trends of the Palestinian people. Yasir 'Arafat belongs to Fatah and he is the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. The decision of the PLO is collective. 'Arafat could not over-rule the PLO's decisions and make personal decisions.

In the past, there were such personal decisions made by 'Arafat and they caused splits within the PLO. We are concerned about the unity of the PLO. To maintain this, the Palestinian leadership makes decisions collectively as this is a requirement for the PLO's unity. This means the PLO's decisions reflect the views of the Palestinian people and not only the opinions of individual Palestinians.

Q: Do you think 'Arafat has lost his credibility?

A: The credibility of any leader (in the PLO) depends on his commitment to jointly made decisions. The most important decisions are jointly made. For instance, 'Arafat's statement on December 14 after the completion of discussions in the UN assembly was not based on jointly made decisions in the PLO. It was an individual decision.

Q: I met some of your supporters in the occupied territories. To me, there was not much difference between their rhetoric and the rhetoric of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] supporters.

A: These people live under Israeli military occupation. This frightens people, scares them. Therefore, we fully understand their psychology. On the other hand, we, in the Democratic Front, clearly advocate a comprehensive political solution to the Palestinian cause. We are the ones who proposed in 1974 a national program for the PLO in which we advocated a two-state solution. Accordingly, Palestinians would have their own state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip where they can practice their right to self-determination, and Arab countries would regain the Golan Heights, the Sinai and South Lebanon.

....Without a political solution, the status quo will continue. Therefore, we proposed in November 1988 a peace initiative. Israel and the United States are still rejecting comprehensive solutions and advocating Camp David-style solutions.

Q: In the absence of a solution, do you think radicalism is growing in the occupied territories?

A: Certainly it is an ever-present possibility. As long as the political gates remain closed, the masses' drive to move for radicalism will become greater and greater.

Q: Do you support military attacks on Israeli civilians?

A: We, in the Democratic Front, are opposed to guerrilla activities against civilians in Israel. The vast majority of military activities in Israel were aimed at military targets. The Israelis themselves admitted this. We are also against military actions outside the occupied Palestinian land. We were against hijacking planes, Munich and Achille Lauro. These are well-known positions maintained by the Democratic Front.

Q: Palestinians blame Arab countries for the lack of funding for the Intifadah.

A: This is true. Most Arab countries have not fulfilled their financial commitments to the Intifadah which they made in the Algiers and Casablanca summits. The cost of supporting the Palestinian people does not match the price paid for four or five fighter airplanes that have become rusty in Arab warehouses. In spite of this, Arab people endure hunger, and they continue the struggle because our people have reached the conclusion that there will be no end to the Intifadah until the withdrawal of the occupation forces and the people practice their right to self-determination.

I believe that we are seeing the second chance of independence since 1967. The first was after the October War in 1973 and (former Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat) aborted it by making an unilateral settlement with Israel. The Intifadah is the second chance. I think that in the first half of the 1990's, a Palestinian state will be established.

Q: What will be the first thing you do after the establishment of the Palestinian state?

A: I will go to Jerusalem and live a normal life.

PFLP Politburo Member Discusses Intifadah

LD1612175889 Kuwait KUNA in English 1225 GMT 16 Dec 89

[By Dawoud Sulayman]

[Excerpts] Kuwait, Dec 16 (KUNA)—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] urged the PLO leadership to reject all plans aimed at ignoring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people while the main stream Palestinian Fatah organisation threatened to resort to armed struggle if Israel continued obstructing the peace process in the Mideast.

PFLP Politburo member 'Abd-al-Rawi Ahmad Maluh said that the Arab-Israeli conflict has reached new dimensions whereby it is no more acceptable or possible to solve the Palestine problem away from recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people headed by the right of turn, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state.

Addressing a well-attended gathering here last night on the occasion of the 22d anniversary of the establishment of the front, the Palestinian official stressed that all attempts to find out a solution to the Palestinian problem outside this framework are doomed to failure.

He also cautioned against falling victim to the illusion of defeating the Israeli enemy and bringing about independence by depending only on the potentials of the Palestinian people and the intifadah without the help of the Arab masses and the Arab liberation and nationalist forces.

The Palestinian official said that the intifadah has helped the Palestinian leadership to move strongly at more than one level and win worldwide recognition to the Palestine cause, despite the fact that the Palestinian moves were not free from unwanted concessions.

Maluh, in the meantime, clarified that the battle for victory was long and requires the presence of many factors to defend the intifadah and make the independent Palestinian state a reality.

He urged the Arab countries to abide by their committments to aid the intifadah in accordance with the Arab summit's resolutions and said the time has not come yet whereby we could force the American-Israeli alliance to recognise our national rights.

He added that the Palestinian people had to work for widening the rift in the Israeli ranks by inflicting human losses on the Israeli occupation army.

Talking about the different plans, projects, and points proposed for the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, he said that all these dubious plans were aimed at ending the intifadah, saving the neck of Israel and cancelling the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The PFLP Politburo member said the U.S.-Israeli conspiracy against the Palestinian people will not stop at this stage and he stressed that our people under the Israeli occupation and in the diaspora will not allow any solution to pass by if it contains an infringement on the rights of our people to freedom, independence and self-determination.

Maluh added that the PLO leadership must put an end to the ongoing state of chaos and reject all U.S. and Israeli plans as well as the tripartite meeting between Israeli, Egyptian and American foreign ministers scheduled to be held in Washington shortly. He emphasized that the PLO leadership should stick to the Palestinian peace plan adopted by the Palestine National Council [PNC]—parliament in exile—in Algiers a year ago and the resolutions of the Palestine Central Council in Baghdad last October. He also said that the Arabs must stop acting as mediators between Israel and the Palestinians.

He further regretted the absence of popular Arab support for the intifadah and the PLO and said this lack of support adds more burdens to our people under occupation.

Maluh said the PLO should reconsider the present state of its organizations and offices abroad so that top priority be given for strengthening the two-year-old intifadah.

The time (?has come), he said, for convening a new session for the PNC to evaluate previous political moves, especially when dialogue with America has reached a deadlock.

The gathering was attended by two Central Committee members of the Fatah organisation, Salah Khalaf—Abu-Yad—and Salim al-Za'nun—Abu-al-Adib—and a number of Arab and foreign ambassadors and a large audience which chanted slogans and expressed their determination to continue struggle till liberation of their usurped homeland.

Meanwhile, the deputy speaker of the PNC, Abu-al-Adib, warned that if current political moves fail, the Palestinian people will take to arms again to force the Israelis to recognise the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

He expressed confidence that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir will fall as did his predecessor Menachem Begin before him. The Palestinian official said "our hand is sincerely extended for peace but when we reach the red lines we will not give away our people's rights."

"(?If the enemy and mediators accept), we shall sit at the negotiating table at full footing but if this leads to nowhere, we shall tell them go your way and we shall go ours and we shall not limit our struggle to the throwing of stones and Molotov bombs and it is going to be a full armed resistance in every inch of our land."

"Everybody", he said, "should know that our people's patience has a limit and once it is exhausted... the armed struggle and the intifadah will go side by side."

Andreotti Sends 'Arafat 'Important Message'

JN1712174889 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Palestinian State President Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday received an important message from Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti. The Italian prime minister paid tribute to the political policy that the PLO has adopted since the Algiers conference, the latest manifestations of which were the resolutions of the PLO Central Council in Baghdad. He stressed that Italy is carefully watching developments in the Middle East and that it is doing all that it can, together with concerned parties, to prepare the atmosphere for convening an international conference that will guarantee a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine problem.

In his message, Mr Andreotti stressed Italy's support for the PLO's peace initiatives and efforts to serve the Palestinian people. The role of the PLO as the real negotiator in the peace process, he said, cannot be ignored. He stressed that Italy will work within the EC to increase material support for the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories. The message focused on the efforts of the Italian prime minister and his talks with senior leaders, officials, and presidents who have visited Italy recently.

Attack on Syrian Post in Lebanon Draws Reaction

Bal'awi Denounces Attack

JN1612180089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] A Palestinian source said in Tunis today that PLO representative Hakam Bal'awi yesterday visited the Syrian Embassy to convey the Palestinian leadership's denunciation of the attack on the Syrian Army intelligence post in al-Rumaylah. Bal'awi handed the embassy a copy of the PLO statement that condemned the attack, and called for establishing a tripartite Lebanese-Palestinian-Syrian investigation committee. However, security sources in southern Lebanon said the Syrian Army objects to forming such a committee.

Fatah Denies Involvement

JN1712172089 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] On 14 December, AP carried a false and fabricated report claiming that brother Abu-Mahir, a Fatah official in Sidon, Lebanon, had claimed responsibility for the imaginary attack against the Syrian post. The agency quoted brother Abu-Mahir as saying that Palestinian and Lebanese brothers who had been held as detainees in the Syrian post were liberated, and that a consignment of confiscated weapons was restored.

Fatah's leadership has made a full inquiry with Brother Abu-Mahir about this report. The following have been revealed:

1. Brother Abu-Mahir made no statement to AP or to any other agency.

2. It is absolutely untrue that Palestinian and Lebanese detainees were held in the Syrian post. There were no detainees, and no detainees were freed from this post.

3. The whole story about a consignment of weapons is fabricated. No consignment was either confiscated or restored.

The PLO wishes that AP would pursue accuracy and refrain from fabricating such news, which only leads to shedding innocent Palestinian and Lebanese blood in favor of their common enemy. Such reporting also creates bloody sedition in the region of Sidon as part of a scheme to justify and prepare for Israeli aggression against this region and the Palestinian camps, especially since Rabin and his war generals the day before yesterday toured and ordered military moves in the region under their control in southern Lebanon.

Perpetrators Arrested

JN1712172589 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 16 Dec 89 P 1

[Report by Fatimah Mansur]

[Excerpt] Salim al-Za'nun, Abu-al-Adib, Fatah Central Committee member and deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council, has stated that the criminals who perpetrated the regrettable incidents in the Sidon area the day before yesterday were arrested within the past few hours.

At a rally held at the Palestinian Embassy last night, he said the perpetrators claimed that they belong to Fatah. He also said that they will stand trial soon. He added that the Syrian leadership considers the incident a reckless occurrence perpetrated by individuals, and that it welcomes the Palestinian call for dialogue. [passage omitted]

Habash Calls for Increased Armed Struggle

LD1712102589 Kuwait KUNA in English 0840 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 17 (KUNA)—A prominent Palestinian leader Sunday called for the re-opening of borders of Arab frontline states before Palestinian armed struggle against Israel but said he was against turning the ongoing intifadah (uprising) in the occupied territories into an armed movement.

Secretary General of the Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine, PFLP, George Habash told the local daily "AL-WATAN," that the Palestine Liberation Organization must forge "basic changes" in its means of work in order to further boost the intifadah and secure its continuity.

He believed that diplomatic efforts, though very essential, should not remain the center-piece of the PLO's activities, but more emphasis should be made on armed struggle.

Habash noted that there were "idle potentials" that should be exploited in extending military backing to the intifadah, saying that there were some 10,000 armed men in Lebanon who could be used for this purpose.

"Why shouldn't we think of launching fighting (against Israel) from all Arab borders to inflict casualties on the Israeli army," Habash asked. He said "Across-border raids and ambushes on the enemy can provide vital support of the intifadah."

He stressed that the uprising's massive and democratic nature should always be preserved, stating that turning the revolution into an armed movement would give Israel the pretext to brutally oppress the Palestinians in occupied lands.

The Palestinian leader asserted that the Palestinian national unity is the only means for PLO factions to achieve the establishment of the independent state of Palestine.

He said the PFLP differences with the PLO leadership's current political trend "is only tactical and focusing on ways to reach the common objective." He stressed that the front would adhere to democratic dialogue within the framework of the PLO and would never break away from the organization.

Arab Leaders, Moscow To Review Jewish Emigration

JN1412105589 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 14 Dec 89 pp 1, 23

[Text] AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned from informed Palestinian sources that Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, plans to travel very soon to Moscow, perhaps before the end of 1989, to hold important and intensive talks with the Soviet leadership on its intentions to allow the emigration to Israel of 1 million Soviet Jews out of a total of 3 million Jews living in the Soviet Union. This is in line with the new changes taking place in the USSR. It is said the emigration emigration comes under the human rights clause.

On the other hand, it has been confirmed that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will also travel for the same purpose. It was also announced in Cairo that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will pay an official visit to the Soviet Union. Diplomatic sources said this visit aims at convincing Moscow to change its plans regarding the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, in addition to discussing the latest developments of the Palestine question in light of the tripartite meeting due to be held among the foreign ministers of Cairo, Washington, and Tel Aviv, in the U.S. capital in January.

Moscow reports say that the Soviet leadership will make moves in the Arab arena to explain the new Soviet policy regarding the situation in the Middle East. These reports also indicate that a Soviet envoy will begin an Arab tour which will include Amman, Cairo, Damascus, and Kuwait.

Palestinian sources have disclosed to AKHBAR AL-USBU' that more than one Arab country is currently in touch with the Soviet leadership to explain the dangers of the emigration of such a number, and its effects on peace prospects in all parts of the Middle East, and perhaps Africa, too.

Shamir Comes Under Fire for Jordan Statement

Milhim Denounces Remark

JN1412140889 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Dec 89 p 1

[Text] Amman, Agencies—PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim has described Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statements on the Jordanian solution to the Palestine question as nonsensical and ridiculous. Moreover, these statements are an attempt to export the Israeli entity's growing predicament, resulting from the continuation and escalation of the intifadah and consequently, the pressure for recognition of the inalienable and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which is their right to self-determination on their national soil.

Milhim added the attempts to revive what has been described as the Jordanian option not only are rejected by the Jordanians and Palestinians, but also by half of the members of Shamir's government, and even by the major Jewish communities in the United States.

Milhim said Shamir's statements constitute a deliberate provocation and a threat to a member state of the United Nations and the Arab League, and to a state that also is admired and appreciated by various countries of the world. Milhim emphasized that these statements, which were also reiterated by Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, confirm Israel's rejection of peace and its endeavor to place obstacles to any moves designed to achieve a just and honorable peace in the region.

Al-Sa'ih Denounces 'Lie'

JN1612090889 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Dec 89 p 1

[Text] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B—Palestine National Council Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has said that Jordan is a genuine and dear country. We are as anxious for its security, order, and stability as we are for the return of Jerusalem and Palestine, he added.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said that Yitzhaq Shamir's statements claiming that Jordan is the Palestinian state and that the Palestinians should establish their state in Jordan, only consolidate our mutual confidence and our solidarity with our brothers in Jordan. They also strengthen our joint struggle to regain Jerusalem and Palestine and resist any harm or aggression directed against dear, fraternal Jordan.

Al-Sa'ih said: Since the lie of "the alternative homeland" was made, we said that to accept this lie would be high treason against the homeland, because we can not accept an alternative to occupied Palestine.

Al-Sa'ih said that 'Arafat's expected visit to Jordan will take place as soon as possible, God willing. The aim is to hold consultations with His Majesty King Husayn and Jordanian officials on developments with a view to serving the high interests of Palestine and the blessed intifadah.

PNC Speaker Dismisses Remark

LD1712195889 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, chairman of the Palestinian National Council [PNC], has condemned the statements made by the enemy's prime minister, the terrorist Shamir, in which he claims that Jordan is the Palestinian state. He said in a press interview: Shamir's statements only increase our confidence in and solidarity with Jordan and our eagerness to fight together to recover Jerusalem and Palestine and oppose any aggression against Jordan.

He added: We said since the fallacy of the substitute homeland first appeared that anyone who accepts the substitute homeland will have committed high treason against the homeland because we should not accept a substitute for occupied Palestine.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih also indicated that the expected visit of President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to Jordan will take place at the earliest opportunity.

PFLP's Malluh Discusses Uprising

LD1412142789 Kuwait KUNA in English 1419 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 13 (KUNA)—A Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) Politbureau member said Wednesday that the Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation would not cease before achieving its goal of independence and freedom.

Speaking to KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY, PFLP Central Committee member 'Abd al-Rahim Malluh said that the uprising has been relentlessly "confronting all kinds of oppression, suppression, economic siege and political conspiracies. It is now entering its third year with a massive momentum despite all hardships."

He added that the Palestinian uprising had become a daily way of life for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip..."Beside the fact that it has been (?productive of a) sort of dual authority as a fait accomplis... it is a unique phenomenon which had created a popular base gearing the Palestinians towards independence."

Malluh ruled out the possibility of a retreat in the occupied territories to the pre-uprising situation, saying that the uprising has restored the mass tempo of all forms of struggle leaving the Palestinian people with one alternative, namely to proceed forward after sacrificing more than a thousand martyrs, suffering tens of thousands of injured, handicapped and detainees.

He emphasised that the Palestinian uprising had successfully "liberated the Palestinian revolution from surrounding Arab conditions despite the intricate complications it has confronted".

Malluh pointed out that the Palestinians in the occupied territories were inventing on a day to day basis ways and methods of struggle to boost their resistance against the Israeli occupation.

The PFLP official said that what is required at present was the development of the uprising and massing all forms of support and protection.

He added that the Palestinian uprising was, as well, in need for pressing Israel and the United States to acknowledge the Palestinian peoples' rights adding that this acknowledgement, "would not come through dialogue only but also by resorting to armed struggle against Israeli targets."

Concerning the Palestinian American dialogue, the PFLP official stressed the fact that the United States did not open the dialogue with the PLO as a gesture towards the Palestinian people, but rather to, "protect the Israeli interests because the United States had had no alternative but to open the dialogue as a result of the uprising".

He, however, criticised the Palestinian American dialogue saying it had far achieved nothing except the Secretary of State James Baker's plan which "requires the PLO to scrap itself".

Malluh called on the PLO leadership to politically protect the Palestinian uprising by means of refraining from entering into "all political manouvers at present or in future, alike".

He futhermore urged the Palestinian leadership to abide by the Palestinian initiative declared by the Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting in Algeria on Nov. 1988," as a basis for liberation and keeping away from all stances (?undermining) the uprising."

Malluh said the Israeli side has not so far presented any positive step whereas the Arab and Palestinian side have given "multiple concessions (?which) will turn in future into (?official) concessions".

The PFLP official lauded the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (?in) that they have not waived their principals and they are still maintaining a high standard of good morale.

He accused unnamed foreign parties of trying to weaken this morale.

Corrective Movement Chief Praises Hamas' Role

JN1212201089 Amman AL-QUDS in Arabic
11 Dec 89 pp 1, 11

[Excerpt] Brother Abu-al-Za'im ['Atallah 'Atallah], commander in chief of the Corrective Movement in Fatah and the PLO, has praised the national role played in the occupied territory by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and its firm rejection of all capitulatory plans. He said: "The Hamas movement concurs with us on many points that form the basis for a sound national stand in confronting the enemy and rejecting all attempts to bypass the intifadah and, consequently, to entrench the occupation and disregard the national inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, particularly the right to self-determination and the establishment of a national entity on the land of their fathers and grandfathers."

Abu-al-Za'im stated: We greatly appreciate the Islamic trend adopted by Hamas in fighting the occupation in terms of thought and existence. We also appreciate its continuous concern for the unity of national Palestinian action. We consider Hamas an integral part of the PLO which constitutes the home and national identity of all Palestinians without exception. The intifadah belongs to all Palestinian people; no one, no faction can claim it for itself. This came in an address by Abu-al-Za'im during a meeting of the Corrective Movement's Higher Information Council last Tuesday [5 December]. He spoke about recent Palestinian, Arab, and international developments.

The brother commander in chief said: The Hamas movement, which turned to Islam to stir the conscience of the Palestinian masses and motivate their activities against the occupation, will have a prominent role throughout our occupied territory. Evidence of its importance is the brutal onslaught launched by the Israeli occupation authorities against Hamas, both against individuals and groups. He added: We are confident that this onslaught, no matter how brutal, will not shake the determination of this movement, which is armed with the doctrine of our people and eschews any factional discrimination between one struggler and another in the homeland. [passage omitted]

Algeria

'Arafat Arrives in Algiers, Meets Bendjedid

LD1812132989 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Head of the State of Palestine Yasir 'Arafat arrived this morning in Algiers. He was welcomed at Houari Boumedienne International Airport by Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmed Seyed Ghazali, and the ambassador of Palestine in Algiers. [passage omitted]

Before noon today President Chadli Bendjedid received the head of the State of Palestine at the Presidency. The meeting was attended by Ahmed Seyed Ghazali, the minster of foreign affairs, and Abu-al-'Izz [Moudher al-Dajjani] the ambassador of the State of Palestine in Algiers.

After the meeting, 'Arafat made a statement to the national press in which he said:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] I briefed the president on the latest developments in the occupied territories, especially those concerning the blessed intifadah carried out by our masses—our children, women, and men—against the Israeli occupation, the importance of this intifadah and supporting it by all means on the basis of the Algiers and Casablanca Arab summits. I also briefed him on the importance of the activity of the seven-man committee concerning the intifadah—which was set up by the Algiers summit to follow up support for the blessed intifadah at the international level and to confirm the resolutions adopted by the extraordinary conference of the Arab League ministerial council, held in Tunis recently—and on the Palestine issue including the critical memorandum released by the Israeli Foreign Minister Arens. In this document, which was circulated at the United Nations, he describes the West Bank as Judea and Samaria. This means he has announced the annexation of occupied Palestinian territories to Israel.

I also discussed with the President the importance of benefiting from the Arab-European dialogue scheduled for 21-22 [December] in Paris for an Arab-European action for [words indistinct] of the Palestinian people and Arab political and economic issues. We discussed the importance of involving Europe in all these moves and benefiting from this European stand as a part of the international stand to support the Palestine issue. [end recording]

Ghazali, Perez de Cuellar on SDAR, Lebanon

LD1512141489 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] In New York, Mr Sid Ahmed Ghazali, minister of foreign affairs, conveyed a written message yesterday to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, from President Chadli Bendjedid.

Mr Ghazali told the APS correspondent in New York that he informed the UN secretary general on the latest developments in the Middle East, and particularly the latest on the Lebanese crisis settlement issue, Saharan matters, and the recent initiatives undertaken by the tripartite Arab committee.

Concerning the Western Sahara, the minister stated that he renewed to Mr Perez de Cuellar President Bendjedid's support for the good office's efforts undertaken by the UN and the OAU to find a settlement to the Saharan issue. The minister added that Algeria's continuous aim is to make these efforts successful through the organization of a true and serious referendum that will enable the Saharan people to express their will.

Egypt

President Mubarak To Visit USSR Mid-1990

JN1412152089 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 12 Dec 89 p 1

[Excerpt] USSR Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Kirillovich Zhuravlev reports after a meeting yesterday with Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid that President Mubarak's visit to the Soviet Union is to take place the middle of next year. [passage omitted]

Preparations Under Way for Agreement With USSR

JN1312182689 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Dec 89 p 1

[Text] The long-term trade agreement between Egypt and the Soviet Union is now being prepared. It will cover the years between 1991 and 1995. The two have also agreed that the trade covered in this accord will reach more than 1 billion accounting pounds sterling annually; that is, the equivalent of 3 billion Egyptian pounds.

A draft agreement on economic cooperation will also be prepared to extend until the year 2000. The drafts of these two agreements will take final shape and will be submitted for approval during the second round of the joint Egyptian-Soviet committee meetings to be held in Moscow in the first quarter of 1990.

An economic delegation including representatives from the Ministry of Economy, the public sector body for foreign trade, the Ministries of Industry and International Cooperation, and the chamber of commerce will leave Cairo next week for Moscow to attend the preparatory meetings for this agreement.

A responsible economic source told AL-AHRAM correspondent Ibtisam Sa'd that Egypt-USSR trade has risen from 512 million accounting pounds sterling in 1988 to 614 million accounting pounds sterling for 1989; that is, a 20 percent increase.

The size of the trade protocol signed last January amounts to 620 million accounting pounds sterling in exports and imports. In the new agreement it will reach a billion accounting pounds sterling.

Some of the projects in which the Soviet Union is participating within the framework of facilities given importers under accepted conditions is the project of the fourth battery in the al-Nasr company for the manufacture of coke, the project to expand the aluminum center at Naj' Hammadi, and the Abu-Tartur phosphate project whose construction costs will be covered by exporting a part of its product to the Soviet Union. The accruals formed by these projects will be covered by Egyptian exports within the framework of annual trade protocols between the two countries.

'Abd-al-Majid Receives Lebanese Minister

NC1412162689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1259 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, conferred here today with a Lebanese delegation led by Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul, who is currently visiting Egypt.

Speaking after the session, Dallul said discussions during the meeting had focused on the developments in Lebanon. Dallul added that he had expressed Lebanon's thanks to President Husni Mubarak and Egyptian officials for their efforts to end the miserable situation in Lebanon. He pointed out that the resumption of air traffic between Egypt and Syria is an important step toward clearing the Arab atmosphere and that it serves the interests of the Arab world, including Lebanon.

'Abd-al-Majid Receives Zairian Counterpart

NC1412163189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Zairian Foreign Minister Nguz a Karl-i-Bond, who arrived in Cairo last night with a message from Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko for President Husni Mubarak.

During the meeting, the two foreign ministers discussed bilateral ties, current outstanding African issues, and the efforts Egypt is exerting to settle African disputes. They also discussed the latest developments in the Middle East and the efforts being made to establish peace and security in the region. It should be recalled that the Zairian foreign minister is currently on a visit to Egypt which will last several days.

Yemeni Ministers To Brief Mubarak on Unity Talks

NC1512060589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] The minister of state for affairs of Yemeni unity in the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] and the minister of state for union affairs in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] arrived in Cairo last night on a visit lasting several days.

The two ministers stated upon arrival that they came to Egypt on behalf of YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bayd, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party in the PDRY, to brief President Husni Mubarak on the results of the recent Yemeni summit in Aden on unity between the two Yemen sectors.

The two ministers praised Egypt's role in strengthening the ties of Arab unity as well as its support for the September revolution in the YAR and the October revolution in the PDRY.

Meet With Mubarak, Comment

NC1612203489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a message from Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], and 'Ali Salim al-Bayd, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], today. The message is related to unionist steps between the two countries.

This was stated by Rashid Muhammad Thabit, PDRY minister of state for unity affairs, following an audience he had, together with Yahya al-'Arshi, the YAR minister for unity affairs, with President Mubarak today. He said: We were anxious that President Mubarak should be fully in the picture regarding unionist developments, because of Egypt's position in the Arab world and its role in spreading pan-Arab awareness in the region. He added that the discussions with President Mubarak touched on Arab developments and that President Mubarak had briefed them on these developments.

Minister Thabit stressed that the recent step taken by the two Yemens is a basic one on the road to the comprehensive Arab unity. He said: We are in an era that is witnessing developments toward unity and large economic blocs. Hence we consider that in these circumstances Arab unity is an economic and political necessity.

Minister al-'Arshi said that the purpose of the visit is to brief President Mubarak on the results of the Yemeni summit held recently in Aden. At this summit an important unionist agreement was reached that took the Yemeni unionist efforts to a very advanced stage, and a draft constitution for a unified state was put forward as a document for the establishment of such a unionist state. Al-'Arshi added: The role of Egypt, which supported the revolutions in North and South Yemen, is a basic one and to a considerable degree it helps in making Yemeni unity effective. He noted that the Arab peoples are today seeking to tackle all the issues that had a negative effect on comprehensive Arab unity, foremost of which is the question of Yemeni unity. He said that when Yemeni unity is achieved it will certainly be the cornerstone for tackling issues in the Arab region.

Regarding the multi-party system in the PDRY and the absence of such a system in the YAR [as received], Al-'Arshi said that the task of the unified political organization committee which met in Ta'izz recently was to discuss the future of organizational and political action in the unionist state. He added that a positive start was made by taking the YAR experience of the General People's Congress and the PDRY experience of the YSP as the basis for thinking about political organizations in the unionist state which will ensure the citizen's right to political action and to participation in different political organizations. The experience of others will be beneficial, but this plurality must be positive as well as negative and in the interest of the citizen, he stated.

Asked what effect the unity of the two Yemens will have on Red Sea security, Al-'Arshi said that division is a negative situation for both Yemens as well as for the region and its security. He noted that unity will certainly be positive for the region's stability.

Answering a question on the PDRY's participation in the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], Al-'Arshi said that the presence of the YAR in the ACC is a positive factor, certainly stemming from the concept of Yemen in its two sectors. He added: The stand of our brothers in the southern part is clear. They support this participation. When a unified state of Yemen is established this will be a bigger boost for active participation in the ACC.

Responding to another question on recent developments between Egypt and Syria, PDRY Minister Thabit said that any meeting between two Arab countries or parties strengthens the Arab struggle to resolve the Palestinian people's issue. Rapprochement between Egypt and Syria serves the pan-Arab trend of struggle in all its dimensions, he stated.

Minister on Road, Rail Links With Libya

NC1412103389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] Bani Suwayf, 14 Dec (MENA)—Eng Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport, said today that a working group from the Egyptian Ministry of Transport and Communications is helping Libya with the railroad between Banghazi and al-Sallum in preparation for linking this railroad to the Egyptian railroad that ends at al-Sallum.

In a statement he made while opening the electronic exchange at al-Fashn in Bani Suwayf, Eng Mutawalli said that the group is also linking Egypt and Libya with a microwave network in order to increase the telephone lines with Libya and make the latter the area through which Egypt's telephone communications with the other Arab Maghreb countries pass.

The minister added that Egypt is preparing the main routes that link Egypt and Libya so as to make them international highways that would reach Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco.

Sidqi on Workers' Problems in Iraq, Jordan

NC1612183489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has stressed that the government encourages travel abroad and does not place any restrictions on this, because its aim is to improve the standard of living of Egyptians and achieve an Egyptian presence in the Arab countries. He said that a high-level committee has been formed to study the implementation of a number of proposals to ensure the dignity of Egyptians abroad. These include the provision of contracts, written pledges that Egyptians may return within a specific period if no job opportunity becomes available, and arrangements for return tickets and insurance for the traveller abroad. He added that the committee has not finished studying these proposals.

Dr Sidqi made these remarks when he deviated from the text of the government policy statement he delivered in the People's Assembly today.

Regarding the issue of Egyptian workers in Iraq and Jordan, the prime minister said that the problem of workers in Jordan lasted only 3 weeks and agreement was reached with Jordan to tackle the position of these workers. He added that an agreement was signed to protect the workers and organize their presence in Jordan through job contracts.

As for Egyptian workers in Iraq, he said: There is no problem for workers with job contracts. It is the workers without contracts who caused this problem, which resulted from a reduction in remittances and a delay in sending them. Problems also arose because of the large numbers who arrived in Iraq but could not find work. Sidqi added that the government has intensified its contacts with Iraq and the Iraqi ambassador in Cairo. Egypt has ascertained, he stated, that clear instructions have been issued banning discrimination between Egyptians and Iraqis and that no Egyptian has been asked to return to Egypt. In addition to the rejection of demonstrations or chaos, it was made clear that $10 million a week would continue to be remitted until the end of December, and that this figure would be doubled in January.

Regarding the issue of the increased number of bodies being returned from Iraq, the prime minister said: For 5 years, between 950 and 1,000 bodies were returned to Cairo every year. By September 1989, the number had reached around 1,000, and it may reach 1,200 by the end of the current year. This roused our feelings and we discussed the matter with Iraqi government officials. He added: The rate of death in relation to the number of

Egyptians in Iraq, which is around 2 million, is reasonable. Of all these cases, only one was death by killing when a mass gathering was dispersed and an Iraqi soldier beat an Egyptian. The other deaths were caused by accidents.

Dr Sidqi said: We know about the 1,000 deaths a year only from the bodies that are sent back to Egypt. As for the other cases where the bodies are buried in Iraq, we know nothing about them and even the Egyptian Embassy knows nothing about them. He added that the total number of Egyptians who have returned from Iraq so far is 36,000 and that agreement has been reached with Iraq to increase the number of flights to transport those Egyptians who want to return.

The prime minister welcomed any proposal by the assembly members to deal with the problem of Egyptian workers and said that the government is working very seriously and actively to solve it.

Regarding the issue of drugs, he mentioned that between $2 billion and $3 billion are spent on narcotics annually abroad. The new law, he stated, confronts both sides of the problem, the penal and social aspects. He praised the efforts of the police in dealing with this problem.

He also stressed the importance of cooperating with the assembly in confronting the citizens' problems and drawing up practical solutions for eliminating them.

Muslim Leaders Cited on Establishing Islamic Rule

NC1612211189 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Leaders of Islamic groups in Egypt have affirmed that jihad is the only way to establish an Islamic government in Egypt.

Speaking to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA', these leaders noted the Islamic groups' decision to confront the regime of Husni Mubarak. They said they will achieve Islamic rule in Egypt by reviving the shari'a and exposing the Mubarak regime's scandals to the public. Brother Ahmad 'Abdu Salim, leader of one of the Islamic groups in Egypt, said the Islamic groups are determined to perform their duty by conducting their religious rituals, promoting virtue and suppressing vice, and overthrowing the idol. For his part, Usamah Rushdi, one of the Jihad Organization leaders in Egypt, said that the Egyptian Constitution conflicts with the shari'a and should therefore be abolished. He noted that the Egyptian Constitution restricts the Muslims in facing the tyrant rulers and that it must be done away with in Islamic Egyptian society.

It is noteworthy that the Mubarak regime, which fears the increasing Islamic awakening, last Sunday arrested 300 members of the Islamic groups and worshippers, who staged a sit-in inside the Jam'iyat al-Shar' mosque in Asyut. Muslims in Asyut city had held a sit-in in the mosque for 2 hours to protest the Mubarak regime's policies, which are hostile to Islam.

Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Leaves for Oman

NC1512153489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, left Cairo this afternoon for Muscat on a visit of several days to the Sultanate of Oman. Before leaving the airport, he said that his visit comes as part of continued consultations between the two countries on Arab and international issues and its purpose is to strengthen bilateral relations.

$67 Million Loan Sought From African Bank

JN1412201289 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 12 Dec 89 p 11

[By Najla' Dhikri]

[Excerpts] Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, has said that the ministry has begun negotiations with the African Development Bank [ADB] to obtain a $67-million loan to secure the foreign currency needed for the al-'Arish power station project with an interest of 4.7 percent to be paid over 20 years, including a grace period of 5 years. Leading Egypt's delegation to the negotiations is Dr 'Irfan Shafi'i, the International Cooperation Ministry's first under secretary for international organizations' affairs. [passage omitted]

Dr Shafi'i has already signed easy-term loan agreements with the ADB, which were negotiated last March for a total of $65 million for the Ministries of Health and Education, $53 million of which is to secure the foreign currency needed to develop the secondary industrial education by purchasing equipment for the existing and new schools, including the modernization of curricula and qualifying and training industrial education instructors. [passage omitted]

Article Reviews Relations With Arab Region

JN1712144889 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 Dec 89 pp 1, 3

[Article by Mahfuz al-Ansari: "The Tripoli-Damascus and Cairo-Baghdad Road"]

[Text] A simple and quick reading into recent news and events indicates that the Arab world is entering a new stage of calmness, accord, and cooperation.

The telephone call between Presidents Mubarak and Al-Asad and the resumption of the civilian flight between Cairo and Damascus the day after this telephone call means that the file of arguments, misunderstandings, and freeze in relations has been folded and put away.

It is my firm belief that closing the file of the Egyptian-Libyan dispute and opening the file of love, clarity, and understanding which began in Casablanca, was affirmed in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq, and continued in Sirte between Mubarak and Al-Qadhdhafi, was the means to reaching an Egyptian-Syrian understanding. We saw the practical steps and felt them a few days ago when the flights were resumed and the telephone lines regained their heat, while previously they were rusty and dusty from the break of more than 10 years.

Here, I do not feel that I am rash if I say:

What happened as a result of the Egyptian-Libyan closeness and understanding represented by openness and detente in relations between Cairo and Damascus, will undoubtedly have the same effect and result on relations between Damascus and Baghdad.

In a clearer and more direct meaning: The Egyptian-Syrian understanding and detente will undoubtedly lead to detente and understanding between Baghdad and Damascus.

Some might believe that what I say here is illogical or that I am jumping to immature conclusions, or that this talk is a type of absolute measure which does not take into consideration many of the warnings and bans, or the bitterness.

However, I am convinced that the Arab tools and utensils have been forged. When the fabricated bans and barriers are removed, traffic—positive and negative—will flow back and forth.

During the years of the break with Egypt, the utensils were joined and waters settled at a straight and balanced level—the break with Egypt.

Today, the Arab common denominator presently has a completely different meaning, stand, and mood.

The common denominator unanimously agreed upon has been issued. It is present in the arena. Everyone agrees on it—that is, friendship, cooperation, and understanding.

Therefore, Egypt has to remake Arab friendships anew.

If isolation were the unanimous agreement over Egypt in the past, then it is its duty, and its duty alone, to recreate unanimity today around solidarity, clear the atmosphere, and eliminate quarrels.

The stage is set. International and Arab circumstances impose it. Reality and its demands cannot bear delay and postponement any further.

Let today's dialogue be closer to fact, and let us move away from theorization, contemplation, and hope. Let us take the sound and the picture to the Gulf's states and waters.

True, everyone heaved a sigh of relief at the cease-fire and the halt in fighting.

However, everyone also burns yearningly for the cease-fire agreement to turn into a peace agreement, including the two Islamic countries, Iraq and Iran, and all the countries of the region.

Everyone is yearning for negotiators to move from the stage of indirect negotiations via the United Nations secretary general or whoever represents him to the stage of direct negotiations between the representatives of Iraq and Iran.

The continuation of this fluid situation—the cease-fire and halt in fighting without peace—means keeping a dark and heavy cloud in the skies of the region, a determined and solid cloud that neither rains nor blows away.

But it hampers the aspirations of development programs in each country separately and the region as a whole.

It takes away reconciliation, understanding, and real cooperation between the brothers and neighbors.

Perhaps this is what is required—keeping things as they are: quiet and full of caution, suspicion, and blackmail.

From what has occurred previously, some might think that the continuing state of cease-fire between Iraq and Iran will not develop into a peace treaty. In other words, the current situation is merely a truce in which both sides are preparing to fight again, especially the Iranian side, since it is refusing direct negotiations and refusing to sign a peace treaty.

Such thinking is wrong by all standards and measures.

Such accounting is far from correct. It contradicts the facts and figures of reality in Iraq and Iran.

Certainly, the people—the human beings—in Iran and Iraq are not mere machines, changing into a military churn, fighting, spitting fire, and carrying death when a button or knob is pushed—a mindless and heartless destructive machine.

Iraq and Iran lived through bitter and harsh war years. It is difficult to find a family anywhere that has not lost one or more martyrs.

One wants to find a mother or father whose heart is not filled with sorrow over a dear person or persons taken by the war.

After 8 years of fire, blood, destruction, and killing, it is difficult for any person to push his people once again to the throes of war without cause or aim, apart from God forbid, anything but stubbornness, or revenge, or some unnamed, unknown factor.

Therefore, the possibility of the resumption of fire and fighting is remote.

However, the continuation of the atmosphere of caution, depression, and blackmail is all the more dangerous, not only for the smaller Arab Gulf states and the ones more concerned about peace, but for the entire region.

If at the beginning of the discussion you thought that understanding and clarity between Damascus and Cairo would result in an understanding and reconciliation between Baghdad and Damascus in which Cairo is the first performer and coordinator, then, by the same logic and in the same way, I can say: Reconciliation and a peace agreement between Iraq and Iran could take place as a direct result of the cleared atmosphere between Baghdad and Damascus.

I do not need someone to remind me of the bitter aftertaste left by the alliances of the war in the mouths of the Iraqis, especially the Syrian-Iranian cooperation or alliance.

I also do not need some people to propose to me the rules of the game of regional and doctrinal balances and how this game governs the relations of states and their policies.

I also do not need to discuss the security of persons and regimes, especially when competition and ambitions lie in their way—since this will lead to obstinacy and thus reflect on relations, policies, and stands.

I can do without all this and much, much more.

What we really need now at this historic stage of humanity's life is to develop and change our concepts, standards, and relations.

This change and development has affected the members of one family inside small houses and inside one country.

Why does it not expand to include our Arab relations?

The relationship between states, even if they are fraternal, is not a love or hate relationship. It is not an emotional relationship. It is a relationship of mind governed by logic and reason. Therefore, it can never reach the stage of permanent and complete quarrel, even if political rhetoric and cliches have over-used the expression "opportunistic relations" to the extent that it has lost its meaning.

Undoubtedly, the clarity in Arab relations as a whole, and Iraqi-Syrian relations in particular, has become a necessity of life. It is not merely a necessity of opportunism on the national and pan-Arab levels.

If there still remains some bitterness which muddles the clarity or understanding between Damascus and Baghdad, then there are scores of reasons that necessitate and urge this reconciliation, clarity, and understanding between them.

Perhaps the reception given the first Egyptian plane that landed in Syria a couple of days ago is an indication that the haze and clouds clinging to the skies of the nations and countries are weak and fragile clouds that can be dispersed by a breeze of love, hearty meetings, and logic between the peoples.

Then, the media and psychology-laden campaigns which for years have been flaring fire in the sky will no longer be needed.

Once again, we have to learn from what is happening around us. Doctrines clashed, alliances became entangled, and fences have been set up for 40 long years.

Suddenly, all the doctrinal, political, and military imaginary barriers toppled and collapsed. Rapprochement and the will to survive overcame everything else.

Accounts were dropped; even the accounts of the fiercest and most farsighted people who did not realize that the hurricane and flood were coming with such speed to overcome everything before them.

As we see the lesson of time in others, we ought to take the initiative and uproot the trees of bitterness, fences of isolation, and barriers of quarrel and start together, all of us, a new stage for a new age.

Editorial Views Shamir's Comments on Jordan

JN1412212489 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Dec 89 p 6

[Editorial: "False Notion"]

[Text] As regional and international efforts combine to break the logjam of the Middle East crisis, Yitzhaq Shamir characteristically makes a discordant noise and wants to take us back to long-forgotten memories. Shamir seems to be taking a step forward and two steps backward and thus is not making any progress down the road to a solution. Proclaiming Jordan to be the state of the Palestinians, Shamir this time is taking many steps backward. Some ingenious solution!

Shamir thus shows that he not only lives in the past but that he lives in a past woven by his own illusions and imagination. He is drawing on a tenaciously held, albeit false, notion invented by generations of Israeli leaders. The thrust of their argument: As a matter of fact, there is no such thing as a Palestinian issue, given that the Palestinians have "moved" to Jordan and settled there and even taken control of the country. The Palestinians have chosen a substitute homeland and settled it, the argument goes. This is the underlying basis of the Jordanian option which boils down to the assumption that with the Palestinians' physical presence in Jordan, they have ceased to have a viable, legally supported case.

Who then are those hundreds of thousands of people engaged in revolution in the West Bank and Gaza Strip against Israeli occupation? Are they a non-Palestinian people or insubordinate Israeli citizens? And exactly how are they related, in Israel's view, to other hundreds of thousands of their next-of-kin inside Israel proper? What if all the parties concerned took their cue from

Shamir and stirred up long-forgotten history? The Palestinians within Israel and the occupied territories, and maybe those in Jordan as well, would then claim a historical right to the land that was until relatively recently theirs! Why is it that Shamir and his ilk alone have the right to so arrogantly and casually say no to the Palestinian entity and yet the PLO is wrongly accused of still refusing the existence of the Israeli entity and wanting to exterminate it? Shamir's false arguments are a double-edged weapon which he had better put away lest he hurt himself.

Editorials on Relations With Libya, Syria

NC1512121889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—In their editorials today, Cairo newspapers say that the experience of the Egyptian-Libyan rapprochement and the expected Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement confirm that the forces of unity and integration between Arab countries are stronger than all forces of division which, as the past 10 years have shown, are not in the interest of any Arab party and primarily serve the Arab nation's enemies; therefore, this must not happen again.

Under the headline "A New Spirit for Joint Arab Action," AL-AHRAM writes that President Mubarak's visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah 2 days [as received] ago and his meeting with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at the latter's house was a reaffirmation of the two Arab leaders' desire to boost the process of integration and cooperation between the two countries in the interests of the Egyptian and Libyan peoples and the entire Arab nation.

It notes that the timing of the visit coincided with an important relaxation in Egyptian-Syrian relations represented by the telephone contact between President Mubarak and President Hafiz al-Asad during which they agreed to resume flights between the two countries after a 10-year suspension. This, it adds, indicates that important steps in Egyptian-Syrian relations are expected in the very near future.

AL-AHRAM goes on to say: We can say here that there are good signs that underline the presence of a serious desire for action and unity among Arab countries. The Libyan leader expressed this when he said that he found that President Mubarak and the Egyptian people are committed to work to build a (?modern) economic power in the two countries.

AL-AHRAM adds: A close examination of the results of the talks between Presidents Mubarak and Al-Qadhdhafi in Sirte indicates the presence of a common desire to boost the process of bilateral cooperation. It suffices here to refer to the agreement to give priority of work in Libya to Egyptians and to have the latter completely replace foreign workers in some projects within 2 years. The paper then says: Such a step cannot be viewed merely as being in the interest of Egyptian workers or in the interest of boosting work in the Libyan arena, but should be viewed as an expression of determination to implement the decisions of the Tubruq and Marsa Matruh summit 2 months ago and a practical move toward the stage of concrete action by establishing joint projects that are in line with the two countries' resources and their needs, such as joint agricultural projects and reclamation of the al-'Uwaynat area. It would be no exaggeration to say that the achievements of the Sirte summit are firm evidence of the presence of a new spirit in joint Arab action that bypasses the stages of axes and moves toward the target of the comprehensive Arab integration.

AL-AHRAM explains that the concept of unity is no longer confined to constitutional matters which cannot realistically be achieved at present. We now have a new and objective concept which views rapprochement, harmony, and integration among the Arab people by fulfilling their interests, needs, and aspirations as the only and real approach to building a strong and solid foundation of unity in the future that will stand up to the challenges and changes of the age.

Concluding, AL-AHRAM says that the Sirte summit and the world developments it discussed means that the Arab world is now dealing with its issues and problems from a comprehensive strategic perspective that avoids narrow and regional considerations and focuses on international developments which could affect the march of Arab action. Therefore, it is necessary to watch and assess these developments and to try to benefit from them.

Under the headline "The Safe Road," AL-JUMHURIYAH says that President Mubarak's working visit to Libya produced important results at the bilateral and Arab levels. The executive departments in the two countries have begun implementing what Mubarak and Al- Qadhdhafi agreed upon in the fields of employment, agriculture, roads, planning, information, energy, petroleum, and health. The value of the coordination between the two fraternal countries at the Arab level will become apparent in the near future.

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that the bilateral agreements aim at achieving the common interests of the two neighborly countries and exploiting the resources and capabilities of each country for the benefit of the two peoples and accordingly for the benefit of Arab integration. For example, there are projects for building a road between the Siwah and Gaghbub oases and a railroad between Banghazi and al-Sallum and for linking the microwave networks.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that when leader Al-Qadhdhafi visits Sinai late next month he will see the landmarks of renaissance and progress in the land of the turquoise. This will be an important sign of appreciation of the Egyptian effort to develop this dear part of the homeland which Egypt has fully recovered. It will also give a new dimension to what Al-Qadhdhafi said to the press delegation that accompanied President Mubarak on his visit to Libya. Al-Qahdhdafi said: I have found that President Mubarak and the Egyptian brothers have a serious desire to work and build a modern economic power in the two countries. We have in fact joined hands.

Concluding, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: This deep understanding proves the soundness of the road which Mubarak's Egypt has adopted for national action at the internal, Arab, and international levels. Egypt has adhered to its principles and pan-Arab commitments. At the same time it has introduced the principle of dialogue, understanding, and serious work in Arab relations far from slogans and ringing words. Egypt believes that the hope of the Arab people will be achieved only through work and understanding of the international situation. It also believes in taking firm steps toward a promising future through Egyptian-Libyan cooperation, the features of which are the best example of the soundness of the objective and the course.

Economy Ministry Officials To Face Trial

JN1512081989 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 Dec 89 pp 1, 2

[By Muhammad Muhawid]

[Excerpt] Public Prosecutor Jamal Shuman ordered that Muhammad Wafa' Sa'id and Mahmud Abu-al-Wafa, under secretaries of the Ministry of Economy, be referred to the Supreme State Security Court for receiving bribes amounting to 330,000 pounds. The public prosecutor's order also includes 12 importers who illegally imported commodities worth $13 million. The supreme state security prosecution office began investigating the case on 18 October 1989. It ordered the arrest of the Economy Ministry first under secretary, who supervises the foreign trade sector. It also ordered the arrest of Mahmud Abu-al-Wafa Saqr, an Economy Ministry under secretary. The prosecution office revealed that they received bribes in order to issue importation licenses for banned commodities. They also opened credits for merchants and released from the custom house commodities that violate the importation laws and the ministry's regulations. [passage omitted]

Islamist University Students Reportedly Arrested

JN1512103389 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Dec 89 pp 1, 2

[By 'Abd-al-Fattah Fayid]

[Excerpt] During the past few days, and following the formation of students' unions, Egyptian universities have witnessed a series of arbitrary police measures against students affiliated with the Islamic trend, especially those who won in recent elections.

At al-Minufiyah University for instance, security forces have arrested nine members of the Islamic group at the engineering faculty, immediately after the announcement of the results of the examinations, under the pretext that those students were giving religious lessons in the university halls. Central security forces broke into their homes at dawn, terrifying their families. They also arrested Ashraf 'Abd-al-Maqsud, Baha' 'Awad, and others.

The engineering students sent a message to the university president and the al-Minufiyah governor in which they asked for help and assistance. They also called on them to save the students from the arbitrariness and oppression which they are suffering at the hands of university guards and the faculty administration, which interferes in their students' affairs and bars some of them from the university campus. Some 37 students who belong to the Islamic group were dismissed and 2 others arrested on the grounds of conducting noon prayers in the faculty garden.

Last Wednesday students organized a demonstration in which they called for a holiday on Thursday to protest arbitrary dismissals that took place without warning. The students of the faculty responded by boycotting lectures and classes.

At the faculty of commerce, six students affiliated with the Islamic group were arbitrarily dismissed without any inquiry. The students tried to complain to the university's president, but the university guards prevented them from contacting him.

At Tanta University, 'Abd-al-Tawwab al-Yamani, dean of the faculty of agriculture, dissolved the committees of the new union which are affiliated with the Islamic trend. [passage omitted]

Increase in Dec Oil Prices Reported

NC1512153989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1416 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—Eng Hammad Ayyub, Egyptian Petroleum Corporation deputy chairman, has stated that it has been decided to raise the price of all types of exported Egyptian oil by 75 cents effective 16 December. The prices of Egyptian oil will be as follows:

Gulf Suez oil	$17.50 per barrel
Bala'im oil	$16.65 per barrel
Ra's Badran oil	$15.50 per barrel
Ra's Gharib crude oil	$15.20 per barrel

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks to Egyptian Reporters

NC1312163089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1303 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Surt, 13 Dec (MENA)—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, has stated that the priorities discussed during his meeting with President Mubarak yesterday focused on advancing

Egyptian and Libyan efforts in industry and agriculture and in facilitating the movement of the one people between the two countries by removing all obstacles that were created over the past few years.

At a meeting with Egyptian chief editors and journalists accompanying President Husni Mubarak during his visit to the Libyan city of Surt yesterday, Col al-Qadhdhafi said: We are acting now according to our policy and preparations. I sense in brother Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian brothers a serious will to work and for unity and building a modern economic might. He added: On our side we also are serious, and no one is putting pressure on us from within or outside telling us not to deal with Egypt or Tunisia or anything of this sort. We are acting with full freedom and independence, he stressed.

Al-Qadhdhafi emphasized his confidence that Egypt is immune from any influence by any party. He said: In fact, we joined hands. He declared that he will visit Egypt in the next few months and that he agreed on this visit with President Mubarak. He said that he and President Mubarak agreed to meet in both countries every now and then and stressed both countries' agreement on the higher Arab interests regarding ongoing world developments. He asserted that Libya will give priorty to Egyptian companies and establishments in dealing with Libyan establishments.

Al-Qadhdhafi declared that his talks with President Mubarak dealt with relations between Egypt and Syria and the recent rapprochement between them, saying: We welcome and encourage this.

Asked if he expects an Egyptian-Libyan-Syrian meeting to be held, Al-Qadhdhafi did not rule out the prospect for holding such a meeting.

Regarding Middle East peace efforts, Al-Qadhdhafi said that the Arabs had collectively expressed their desire for peace twice: first in Fes and second in Casablanca. In addition, Yasir 'Arafat made several peace initiatives, but it seems that the other party does not want peace. We declare peace, but they do not. Regarding the latest developments in the Palestinian issue, Col al-Qadhdhafi said: "In fact, there are currently no developments in the Palestinian issue—there has been no evolution in it."

Expounding his views on the concept of Arab union, Al-Qadhdhafi called for the existing Arab regional groups to function under the umbrella of an Arab union, saying that it is also possible for mergers and other forms of unions to take place in that framework. He noted that he had proposed to the Arab summit meeting in Casablanca that the summit be turned into a presidential council that would meet annually with rotating chairmanship. Al-Qadhdhafi also proposed that specialized councils be formed from various ministries in Arab countries to perform neutrally [takun 'ala al-hiyad] regarding all the Arab League agreements in the EC style. Col al-Qadhdhafi said that he had made proposals in this regard by suggesting the unification of the electricity and gas authorities and by suggesting that an Arab project for self-sufficiency in grain, a Pan-Arab body for scientific research, and a unified water board be established.

Commenting on the issue of Libyan participation in the Arab-European dialogue, Al-Qadhdhafi said that this topic was discussed in the talks, noting that Egypt sees it necessary for Libya to take part in the dialogue on account of its being an important Mediterranean state, one of the seven Arab countries situated on the Mediterranean.

Al-Qadhdhafi said that this issue is still under examination by the Libyan Foreign Ministry, noting that according to one Libyan viewpoint, the dialogue is unequal. Col al-Qadhdhafi called on Arab countries to agree on a unified strategy, noting that Europe, a continent with huge resources, will be unified politically and economically in 1992 according to a strategic program that it already possesses.

As for the situation in southern Sudan, Col al-Qadhdhafi said that the Libyan al-Jamahiriyah is supplying the Sudanese Government with support to face the rebellion in the south, describing the situation in southern Sudan as part of a Zionist design in Africa and the southern reaches of the Arab world intended to sabotage Arab-African cooperation.

Commenting on the Lebanese issue, Al-Qadhdhafi denounced sectarianism as the main cause for Lebanon's bloody conflict. He described the existing situation in that country as an open wound, saying that there is a scheme to keep Lebanon in this state of affairs so as to weaken Syria and create another Palestine.

On the Chadian issue, Col al-Qadhdhafi said that he had broached this subject during his discussions with President Husni Mubarak in the latter's capacity as OAU chairman. He noted that President Mubarak showed appreciation for Libya's stand on this issue. Col al-Qadhdhafi said that he regards the conflict in Chad as having become a local one now. He remarked that in spite of this, Chad has not demonstrated flexibility either on the domestic or foreign level to resolve the crisis amicably.

The Libyan leader denied that there is such a thing as the Libyan Islamic Legion. He added that he had asked President Mubarak, in his capacity as OAU chairman, to send a committee to the Chadian-Sudanese border to get a first-hand view of the situation, to be assured that there is no such legion, and to see that the conflict is an inter-Chadian one.

Commenting on Third World indebtedness, Col al-Qadhdhafi said that this is an international issue that concerns all countries. He noted that fortunately, Libya is not concerned with this issue because it is not a debtor state but a creditor state to several Arab, African, and Eastern European countries.

Asked for his views on the two superpowers's agreement to reject German reunification, Col al-Qadhdhafi said that the arrangements made after World War II have begun to collapse.

In conclusion, the Libyan leader explained the lack of concern which the Malta summit evinced toward the Middle East issue by saying, "When a certain peril theatens Israel, we find that there is strong concern with the issue. When it is the Arabs however, who are in danger, it does not matter."

Peace Talks With Chad Reportedly To Continue

AB1812215289 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] As part of Chad-Libya cooperation, a government delegation led by Adoum Moussa Seif, minister of information and civic orientation, is in Libya to continue the peace negotiations between our country and Libya. Contrary to what we said in our midday cast, Foreign Minister Achiekh Ibn-Oumar did not go to Tripoli. We apologize for this mistake. It may be recalled that the Chadian delegation has gone to Libya after the visit to our country last month by a Libyan delegation led by Ibrahim Muhammad al-Hishari, minister of economy and trade to attend the recent session of the Chad-Libya joint commission. At this session, Minister Adoum Moussa Seif, who led the Chadian delegation, reminded the Libyan side of our country's preparedness to strive for peace and relations of good neighborliness despite the poor situation maintained by Libya on the eastern border of our country.

Foreign Liaison Bureau on U.S., French Ties

LD1812201289 Tripoli JANA in English 1656 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 18, JANA Arab Maghreb Union's Pool—In a reply to a question from JANA on the recent French statements regarding the Libyan-French relations, an official source at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation replied as follows:

First—The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation welcomes the statements from the French Foreign Ministry spokesman regarding his confirmation that France's decision to return the Libyan aircraft and the provision of military hardware to Great Jamahiriyah was a reversible decision, despite previous experiences with France that made us believe in a way that might be absolute that France does not respect and does not abide by its word and its pledges.

Second—With regard to the letter the leader had sent to the French president, this letter was not private nor bilateral, but concerns the Islamic world as a whole which considers Great Jamahiriyah as its leadership especially after the formation of the Islamic command at the Banghazi conference for the Islamic forces, activities and sects... by this Great Jamahiriyah is responsible for following up Muslims matters and solve their problems.

This is what the Muslims decided, this is their will and we are not in a position to refuse this will and what oppression thousands of Muslim girl students in France were subjected to comes within this context... We were hoping that the French president look into the status of Muslim women in France through the letter sent by the leader to him, and that publishing it in our media should not have provoked any problem because it was issued by an official source. If the French president wanted to send a letter to the leader, we certainly will not object or protest to publishing it and Great Jamahiriyah's stance then will be similar to France's position especially that it is from the top of the state and has the right to publish it in its media.

Third—Great Jamahiriyah will participate in the Arab-European dialogue's conference but its participation will be in response to a call from brothers and not in response to a call from France... because France's call to Great Jamahiriyah came at a situation that does not allow it to be accepted by Great Jamahiriyah.

Fourth—With regard to what France has been subjected to pressures to lift the embargo imposed on some Libyan equipment, Great Jamahiriyah basically did not see any justification for imposition of embargo upon it, neither European nor French. Also why does France be subjected to negative reactions from the U.S. and Chad? Is this because Great Jamahiriyah had established relations with Ndjamena regime, ended the state of war and left Chad for Chadians, released Chadian prisoners of war and endeavoured for the situation to be stable in Chad?

And America, what does it want from Great Jamahiriyah? We challenge it to present anything against Jamahiriyah or condemn it. If that was because Jamahiriyah wants to be free, independent, support all nations struggling for freedom and support liberty causes in every spot on earth, then Great Jamahiriyah will not give up its freedom and will not give up supporting causes of liberty... peace can not be established upon terror, starving and seige... This sort of peace is the one Great Jamahiriyah rejects. Jamahiriyah rejection of terror, siege and colonialism is the right stance because of which it is subjected to seige and embargo... Is their in such a stance any crime? The crime is what is America and Europe doing—the siege and the embargo.

Fifth—We are amazed at what France was meaning by the difficulties facing the Libyan-French relations in North Africa. North Africa includes Arab states which are Egypt, Jamahiriyah, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco three of which were French colonies... Does France still consider those three Arab states as its colonies? Or does it want Jamahiriyah to ask permission from France with regards to its relations with Tunisia or Algeria or Morocco? Or does it object to the opening of borders between the Arab states of North Africa? It is undoubtedly a mystery and we ask France to explain what it means by it... We also direct the question to our brothers in North Africa, what does France mean by saying that Libyan-French relations were facing various difficulties with regards to the relations with North Africa?

Our patience is a long one, because we allowed the presence of French troops on our borders and in Africa. With regards to Chad, what more does France what from its full occupation of Chad? Does it want to occupy southern Jamahiriyah? We demand an explanation for the French attitude.

Sixth—We welcome the fact that France is seriously looking into improving its relations with Jamahiriyah. We stress upon the word "seriously" and hope that France has a word, for since the "Crete agreement" we become suspicious in the credibility of the French policies and it is an occasion to remind about some of what was agreed upon in Crete:

1—Libya has the right to bring in volunteers for the (GUNT) [Transitional National Government of Chad] government without restriction to the number.

2—If foreign forces entered the Chadian territories, Libya has the right to intervene.

3—If the military operations reach northern Chad, it becomes Libya's right to intervene in Chad.

This is a recording in the voice of Prime Minister Papandreou of Greece speaking in the press conference he had held in Crete at the conclusion of the meeting between the leader and the French president.

Seventh—The improvement of relations, ending of tension and entering into a new phase all depends on France and the policy it pursues towards Jamahiriyah. As for Great Jamahiriyah, it did not abandon any commitments in its international relations.

It is regrettable that Great Jamahiriyah has begun to be forced to take practical measures to reply to the hostile French attitude which is constant and unjustified after losing hope in any dialogue or understanding by friendly methods.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Speaks at 'Martyrs Day' Celebration

EA1512133989 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] [No dateline as received]—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC], has stressed that the revolution will continue to strive for peace. He pointed to the outcome of the recent Nairobi talks, saying: We shall knock on all doors leading to peace, so that stability may prevail, and the homeland may rise from its fall and become strong again in its continent.

This was said in a speech marking the first Martyrs' Day observed in a military area outside the capital. The occasion was attended this morning by a large number of inhabitants from the northern region. Al-Bashir urged everyone to draw inspiration from the splendid [words indistinct] of our brave soldiers, who have continued to defend the homeland with their lives, overcoming difficulties without hesitation.

He said that while our forces were struggling there were abortive attempts by defeatist [words indistinct] inside and outside the country to break the ranks. He said the revolution would quell, without mercy, all smuggling attempts and plots to harm production. It will cut down anyone who conspires against the homeland.

Lt Gen al-Bashir stressed that improving the combat efficiency of the Armed Forces was the foremost duty of the revolution and its foremost concern. It will provide them with all the resources to maintain the integrity of the homeland and its stability.

The RCC chairman expressed his appreciation and respect for the martyrs and their sacrifice of their lives in defense of the homeland.

He stressed loyalty to them and interest in taking care of their families. He said: This is our duty and their right. We shall look after their families, inquire about their conditions and visit them, in recognition of the dearest sacrifices the martyrs have made for the homeland.

He said that the Armed Forces would continue to be a strike force to protect the homeland and honor, offering what is most valuable. They are the honest guard and the vigilant eye, protecting the people's resources so that the flag will fly high, and life will be honorable.

He said in conclusion: We are moving forward, thanks to the internal front, and nothing will obstruct us in our endeavors to achieve a decent life for people in their homeland. He pointed out that the train of the revolution is big enough for all, for anyone who wishes to contribute his ideas or efforts to the construction of the homeland and its progress.

Khalifah Comments on Talks With Garang Movement

AB1812124489 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] This afternoon Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, National Salvation Revolution Command Council member and leader of the government delegation to the peace talks with Garang's movement in Nairobi, held a news conference at Friendship Hall in Khartoum. At the beginning of the conference [passage indistinct].

Regarding the Nairobi talks, he explained that the delegation of Garang's movement came without any desire to achieve peace. The formation of their delegation confirms the movement's lack of seriousness toward peace and its desire to avoid the recommendations of the national dialogue conference on peace issues.

He added that the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] delegation is also working to hoodwink the whole world into believing it is inclined toward peace.

He also stated that Garang's movement is striving to achieve a temporary peace to reorganize its forces following the great victories achieved by the Armed Forces against [word indistinct]. He said: The government delegation is fully aware of the objectives of the movement's delegation, and we stressed in the talks our eagerness to establish permanent peace, and not a temporary and fragile peace.

Col Khalifah made these statements as the government embarks on the implementation of the program of the national dialogue conference. During the Nairobi talks, the two sides agreed that the resolutions of the national dialogue conference were constructive and suitable for solving Sudan's problems. He referred to some points on which the two sides did not reach agreement.

Col Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah announced that 1990 would be the year for the application of the federal system in Sudan. He said the talks would continue with the aim of reaching agreement on the points of disagreement between the two sides. He said the shari'a and the customary law are the subjects of legislation in Sudan, but there is no compulsory religion. His excellency said: We shall not neglect our sovereignty. He said: We shall renew the agreements we have concluded with some states, and we shall reach more agreements with some other states. He stressed that the revolution would not neglect Sudan's security. Col Khalifah said the revolution's moves abroad will continue until the whole world becomes aware of what it is doing to achieve peace in Sudan.

UN Official Denies Rebels 'Smuggled' Arms

JN1912074589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Dec 89 p 1

[By staff writer P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—A senior United Nations official Monday [18 December] categorically denied charges that arms and ammunition were smuggled to Sudanese rebels by a U.N.-organised relief programme and expressed hope that such allegations would not preempt much-needed relief efforts in the war-hit, famine-stricken country.

"It is unfortunate that these allegations have been made and I am saddened by them," said Richard Reid, regional director of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for the Middle East and North Africa, referring to charges made in Khartoum by a top-level officer in the military junta now ruling Sudan. "All of us in Operation Lifeline Sudan knew the trust the government had put in the U.N. to preserve total security and control in our food and health supplies distribution process; and to ensure that these relief supplies—and nothing else—were distributed to war-affected people on both sides of the fighting lines," Reid, who is based in Amman, told the JORDAN TIMES.

Phase one of Operation Lifeline Sudan, which involved many U.N. agencies including UNICEF, and other international organisations, was completed in October this year. It involved moving 110,000 tonnes of food and health supplies into various parts of Sudan, particularly the south where a civil war is raging since 1984, to help victims of famine and drought. Reid said the relief operation averted a "repetition" of last year—when 250,000 people died of starvation, malnutrition and epidemics in southern Sudan.

Operation Lifeline Sudan was made possible after the Khartoum junta and the southern rebels agreed to honour an agreement to offer safe conduct to relief supplies and not to hamper other related operations.

But, Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah a member of the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) of Sudan—the military junta—charged Sunday that "There were excesses in the relief operation, which had a mercy tag but was hostile in reality."

"We have irrefutable evidence that arms, ammunition and spare parts for vehicles reached the rebels through relief and were later used to kill innocent people," Khalifah, deputy to Sudanese strongman 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, was quoted as saying at a press conference in the Sudanese capital.

Asked by the JORDAN TIMES Monday to comment on the charge, Reid pointed out that "scores of monitors—U.N. personnel—(were) assigned specifically to inspect each step of distribution."

"Operation Lifeline Sudan succeeded through the trust of the government of Sudan and through the confidence given by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)," he added.

The U.N. official, who said he was personally involved in the relief programme, expressed hope that the next phase of the operation would not be jeopardised by the dispute.

"Operation Lifeline Sudan was able in the past year to do its job because of trust," he said. "We need to preserve that trust if Operation Lifeline Sudan II—next year's relief operation—is to go forward effectively."

"For the lives of Sudanese children and women particularly, this is crucial," he added.

Reports from Khartoum indicate that the military junta led by al-Bashir, who assumed power after overthrowing the civilian government of Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in June this year, is insisting that a fresh ceasefire with the Sudan People's Liberation Army

(SPLA), the military wing of the SPLM, is in place before any relief efforts could be resumed.

In a tacit arrangement seen by observers as anxiety on both sides to project a humanitarian image, the military rulers and the rebels had been renewing unilateral ceasefires since June to facilitate relief efforts, but the truce collapsed after the SPLA overran a border town in October. A round of peace talks held in Nairobi, Kenya, between the junta and SPLA early this month broke up with no definite sign of progress. Both sides have given conflicting versions of the next phase in negotiations to end the five-year civil war.

According to Western relief officials, food stocks at the southern provincial capital of Juba are expected to run out before the end of the year, and phase two of Operation Lifeline Sudan, which involves ferrying 90,000 tonnes of food and medical supplies to the south in January, is paralysed by the conditions attached to it by the al-Bashir regime.

However, in his comments Sunday, Khalifah, who led the junta team to the Nairobi talks, appeared to hold out the possibility of resuming Operation Lifeline Sudan. He said the ruling council in Khartoum and donor governments would hold a meeting next month to discuss the issue.

Bahrain

Sudanese Official Arrives in Manama 18 Dec

JN1812174689 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Manama, Dec 18 (GNA)—Member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council in Sudan Col. Salah al-Din Muhammad Karrar arrived in Manama this morning for a two-day visit to the country.

Karrar, who is also head of the economic committee in the Council, will hold talks with officials here on ways to boost relations between Sudan and Bahrain.

He was received by Bahraini Minister of Commerce and Agriculture Habib Ahmad al-Qasim and Sudanese Charge d'Affaires to Bahrain 'Izz al-Din 'Ali 'Abbas.

Oman

Lebanese Minister Arrives With Al-Hirawi Message

JN1612184989 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Lebanese Finance Minister Dr 'Ali al-Khalil arrived in the Sultanate at noon today on an official visit of several days. Upon his arrival, Dr al-Khalil made a statement to OMAN PRESS AGENCY in which he said he will deliver a message to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. He said his visit is part of a tour of Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states to explain the situation in Lebanon to their majesties and highnesses the GCC leaders. The Lebanese minister added he will explain the anomalous situation prevalent in Lebanon as a result of the movement led by Michel 'Awn, the former commander of the Lebanese Army, and the effects of this phenomenon, which may lead to a kind of Cyprusization and partition if it continues for a long time. This, he said, poses a danger that threatens Lebanon as well as the Arab region.

The Lebanese finance minister added that he will confirm the determination of Lebanese legitimacy, represented by His Excellency Ilyas al-Hirawi and the government of national accord under Dr Salim al-Huss, to confront this phenomenon and to remove all obstacles preventing the spread of the full sovereignty of Lebanese legitimacy. Dr 'Ali al-Khalil said: We believe that the Arab brothers, who have done a great deal for the sake of backing Lebanon, are willing to continue this backing, and that the tripartite Arab committee and all Arab countries are carrying out their duties in this regard as best as possible. Accordingly, I am trying to discuss possible means of support for cooperation on the Lebanese, Arab, and international levels so as to eradicate this phenomenon, and effectively work to solve the Lebanese crisis.

Upon his arrival at the al-Sib International Airport, the Lebanese minister was received by Muhammad Ibn-Musa al-Yusuf, secretary general of the Development Council, and advisers to the Finance and Economy Ministry.

PDRY

Al-Bid Greets Yemen Arab Republic Ministers

EA1512181089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, yesterday evening [14 December] received brothers from the northern part of the homeland: Salim Muhammad, candidate member of the Political Bureau and minister of fisheries; 'Abd-al-Qawi Muthanna, member of the Central Committee and minister of municipalities and housing; Ahmad Luqman, minister of works and social affairs and member of the permanent committee; and Dr Muhammad 'Ali Muqbil, minister of health. They are members of the delegation of the two parts of the homeland to the Gulf Cooperation Council states and the Maghreb Union.

The secretary general issued his directives to the members of the delegation, pointing out the purpose of Yemeni unity is to emerge from past tragedies and sufferings and improve the living standards of the Yemeni people. Unity will be only one factor in the stability of Yemen and the region. It is regarded as a step on the path to total Arab unity.

The secretary general emphasized that through unity, Yemen will have a better role to play in the destiny of our Arab people. The key issue is the Palestinian cause and entrenching Arab unity, which in turn will improve the status of the Arab people and contribute to strengthening their role. This will strengthen security, stability and peace in the Arab region and the whole world.

Party Official on Unification Plans, Amnesty

EA1512214189 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the Central Committee, has described the decisions of the 18th extraordinary session of the Central Committee, which met to consider approval of the freedom to practice party pluralism, as a bold, brave step that will help move toward crystalizing a realistic formula for political work in the united Yemeni state.

It also will contribute to strengthening the democratic national alliances based on faith in the principles and aims of the 26 September and 14 October glorious revolutions, and based on the new political thinking, which is inclined towards creating realistic bases for political pluralism in society. This was stated in a press interview he gave for the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, which published it this morning, Friday.

During his interview with AL-ITTIHAD, Brother Salim Salih affirmed political work in the desired united state would be based on fundamental principles, the most important of which are: abandoning violence or appeals for violence in political work; non-use of religion to foster different political opinions; the banning of political activity leading to the deepening of denominationalism, tribalism, regionalism, or partition; banning of political activity that calls for the return of the monarchist system or the sultanic system; the provision of guarantees for the non-exposure of any citizen to any punishments or harassment in his life, or in his post, or even in promotion and opportunities for training due to his membership of one party or another. Brother Salim Salih Muhammad explained the political system of the united state would be based on party pluralism, in accordance with what was provided for by the draft constitution.

He pointed out the unified political organization committee, which meets in Aden on 25 December, would continue discussing this issue within the framework of alternatives submitted to it. He also explained: We prefer the fourth alternative, which was discussed by the unified political organization committee at its first meeting in Ta'izz city, which is the establishing of broad frontal alliances. That is the more (?suitable) alternative as a formula for political work in the united state.

Brother Salim Salih revealed a decision adopted by the Central Committee at its 18th extraordinary session, on entrusting the Political Bureau with presenting the concept of conducting a congress in the first half of next year, and not as was scheduled at the end of next year, 1990. He described this decision as springing from the Central Committee's understanding of the nature of the stage that (?it) is living through now, and its interpretation, namely: We have entered a new stage that has a democratic, national character, and purport, with extensive political participation on the scale of the entire homeland.

New alliances also are involved, that this stage requires serious thinking to draw up a new program for the party, which will be based on these objective facts in the Yemeni arena as a whole. Since the period of division, we have started advancing toward regaining unity of the people and land, a matter requiring a change in our programs and plans in accordance with this transformation in our new life.

In reply to a question from AL-ITTIHAD newspaper about whether there are contacts with the political forces which, after independence, formed an opposing front abroad, Brother Salim Salih Muhammad denied the existence of any contacts of this type, explaining the Central Committee's decision requires the Political Bureau to discuss this issue and present complete ideas about this decision to the Central Committee of the party, which is scheduled to meet in December.

In his reply to the newspaper, Brother Salim Salih Muhammad also denied that the fugitive criminal, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad [former president sentenced to death in absentia in December 1987], was among those covered by the decision to rehabilitate the political forces sincere to the revolution which were wrongly excluded.

He said: The situation of 'Ali Nasir is different, for he is the person on whom a judicial sentence was passed in accordance with the Constitution and the law, and who was the leader of all that occurred on 13 January 1986; namely, the bloody incidents. He bears full responsibility for them.

As for others among those who have no connection with hostile circles and quarters and did not act or conspire against the interests of the Yemeni people, in my personal judgment, they certainly will be covered by the decision.

In his interview with AL-ITTIHAD, Brother Salim Salih Muhammad praised the military agreement recently concluded between the two parts, pointing out it would provide great opportunities and open true horizons for accelerating unity and merging the two armies into one after the termination of the previous military belief, which was based on the fact the north was the enemy or the south was the enemy. Brother Salim Salih called on the rest of the establishment, specifically security bodies, to follow the example of the military establishment for cooperation to prevail between the [passage indistinct].

Yemen Arab Republic

Mauritanian Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

JN1712130589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Brother Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, left Sanaa this morning following a 4-day visit to our country. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on Tunisian President's Visit

Escheikh Meets With Ramadan

JN1812172289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received Abdelhamid Escheikh, Tunisian minister of foreign affairs.

Taha Yasin Ramadan asserted the visit by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to Iraq will contribute greatly to giving new and broad dimensions to the future of Iraqi-Tunisian relations, which have been characterized by major and distinguished progress in recent years.

The Tunisian minister of foreign affairs asserted Tunisia—president, government, and people—is very proud of the brotherly and developed ties with fraternal Iraq, and that it seriously endeavors to continue joint action to bolster and develop these ties. He also voiced the Tunisian people's joy over the victories won by the Iraqis under President Saddam Husayn and the major scientific achievements demonstrated by the al-'Abid rocket system.

During the meeting they discussed the broadlines of the fields of future joint cooperation through the joint Iraqi-Tunisian committee that soon will meet.

Leaves Baghdad 18 Dec

JN1812133789 Baghdad INA in English 1255 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Dec 18, INA—Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali today left Baghdad concluding a three-day state visit to Iraq at the invitation of President Saddam Husayn.

President Ben Ali was seen off at the airport by President Saddam Husayn, members of the Revolution Command Council, the ministers and staff members of the Tunisian Embassy in Baghdad. [passage omitted]

'Aziz, Red Cross Official Discuss POW Issue

JN1812201889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Kinadinger, director of Middle East operations for the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], currently visiting Iraq.

The foreign minister declared Iraq insists on sincere abidance by the Third Geneva Convention, which calls for the release of all prisoners of war once military operations are halted. He also said Iran's position on this subject constitutes a plain violation of this binding international convention and clear proof of the Iranian regime's disgraceful behavior toward this legal and humanitarian issue.

The minister asserted the world community, and particularly the UN Security Council members and the UN secretary general, must expose Iran's disgraceful stand and call for the immediate, unconditional release of all prisoners. The minister also referred to false Iranian media campaigns regarding this issue. The campaigns aim to evade internal and external pressure stemming from its insistence on not resolving the issue of prisoners of war and using that issue as a cheap bargaining card.

The foreign minister stressed Iraq will continue to strongly call for a resolution of this issue on a sound legal, ethical, and humanitarian basis. He also affirmed Iraq's firm policy to cooperate with the ICRC and urge it to take courageous initiatives within the framework of its legal and ethical responsibility to pressure the Iranian regime into complying with the Third Geneva Convention.

The meeting was attended by heads of the Foreign Ministry's Department of International Organizations and Conferences and Legal Department.

Soviet Deputy Power Minister Arrives for Talks

JN1812175489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Dec (INA)—Aleksandr Semenov, USSR deputy minister of power and electrification, arrived today in Baghdad.

In a statement to INA, Semenov said his visit to Iraq falls within the framework of the agreements of joint cooperation signed between the two countries in the field of power and electricity.

He added he will discuss with Iraqi officials the execution of the projects in Iraq jointly built and carried out by the two sides, as well as means to develop bilateral ties in the fields of power and electricity.

Financial Cooperation Agreement Signed With Japan

JN1812113089 Baghdad INA in English 1105 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 18, INA—Iraq and Japan signed lately in Tokyo a joint minutes for economic,trade and financial cooperation whereby Japan offers financial facilities to Iraq totalling three billion dollars, it was reported here today.

Minister of Trade and Acting Minister of Finance Muhammad Mahdi Salih told INA, saying that signing the minutes came in conclusion of economic talks held with the Japanese officials.

The minister added that the minutes covered various domains of economic cooperation and trade exchange as well as offering financial facilities totalling three billion dollars to finance developmental projects and import of goods needed by Iraq.

The minister confirmed that this accord would open vast spheres for economic, trade and technical cooperation with Japan, in assertion of Iraq's desire for developing and deepening its relations with Japan as being one of the major economic powers in the world.

The minister further added that this accord also reflected Japan's desire for expanding volume of economic cooperation with Iraq in all fields.

The minister made clear that strength and firmness of the Iraqi economy and the world states' confidence in it had embodied Iraq's success in signing this accord and other economic, trade and technical agreements with various world states.

It is worth mentioning that the Iraqi minister had returned home last night concluding a visit to Japan after leading an economic delegation comprising representatives from Ministries of Trade, Finance, Oil, Central Bank of Iraq and Rafidayn Bank.

'Zionist Enemy' Moves Against Rockets Expected

JN1812181289 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 17 Dec 89 p 6

[By Hadi Husayn]

[Excerpts] 'Asim Ya'qub, Iraqi ambassador to Kuwait, has asserted Iraq is very vigilant against the expected moves of the Zionist enemy and the parties supporting it following Iraq's major scientific achievements, represented by its firm steps to catch up with the developed countries. He said what happened to the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981 will not be repeated because "the fox is not caught twice in the same snare." [passage omitted]

Asked about the precautionary measures Iraq must take after successfully launching satellite-carrying rockets and its scientific achievements in the nuclear and technical fields, Ambassador 'Asim Ya'qub said: The fox is not caught twice in the same snare, as the saying goes. We were caught in the snare in 1981 when the Tammuz reactor was hit; this will not happen again, God willing. Iraq is impregnable and has seen the reactions of international forums following the Tammuz experience. In the past, if a bullet were manufactured in the Arab world, the enemy would know about it, even months before its manufacture, because there are spies. Our experiment took the Zionist spy masters by surprise because they did not know when it would take place. This is an accomplishment greater than even the scientific achievement itself, so how can we not fortify and protect it?

He added: We know about the enemies' reactions. Senior Zionist specialists in Israeli institutions met to discuss the dimension of this achievement out of fear it would widen [as published] the gap between the Arabs and Israel which should be at least 20 years of experience, development, and scientific progress. What is the state of that gap now, especially after news reports of Iraq's purchase of enriched uranium and its entry into the nuclear field? We have the right to protect our achievements because they belong not only to Iraq, but to the entire Arab nation as well.

Al-Qadhdhafi Hails Rocket as 'Great' Achievement

JN1612125889 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 16, INA—President Saddam Husayn has received a congratulatory telegram from Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on Iraq's successful launch of rocket al-'Abid, capable of placing satellites into space.

In his cable, President Al-Qadhdhafi hailed Iraq's strength which brought to life this great Arab achievement, considered a step on the way of building Arab power and a new instrument enabling the Arabs to lay down pillars of strength to face their enemy which occupies their lands and possesses destructive means.

Jasim Receives Cuban Communist Party Member

JN1712182689 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Ba'th Party Regional Command member and official in charge of the Regional Command's Foreign Relations Bureau, today received (?Campers), member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba. During the meeting they discussed spheres of cooperation between the two parties to serve common interests and the cause of peace in the world.

Rabin Addresses Tel Aviv University Students

Discusses Defense Spending

TA1812161889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] The proposed state budget for 1990 is likely to cause numerous dismissals at RAFAEL [Armament Development Authority] and at the defense industries, Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today, addressing Tel Aviv University students.

On another issue, the defense minister stated: I approved meetings of MIA's families with PLO representatives in Tunis. Our army affairs correspondent 'Amos Har'el reports:

We are exploring all venues to secure the return of our POW's and MIA's, said Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. We took action in different spheres; there was no point in refraining from public action in some of the spheres, as in the visit to Paris of Tami Arad, POW navigator Ron Arad's wife. Our problem is that the other side does not operate as we do: They do not issue reliable information and they refuse to allow visits of the Red Cross.

[Begin Rabin recording] I approved meetings of the families with the PLO. Some of the families' representatives were even permitted to travel to Tunisia because I believed that no limits should be applied where this issue is concerned. To be able to receive information, the families are allowed to hold meetings without any restrictions or limitations whatsoever. They are, however, required to obtain prior approval; they are financed by us. [end recording]

Concerning the defense budget, Minister Rabin said: No budget has been cut as severely as the defense budget. I am sorry about the fantastic figures that have flown around. The truth is that we fired about 10,000 defense industries workers in the past few years; they constitute about 25 percent of the total number of employees in these industries.

[Begin Rabin recording] I fear that, if the budget remains what I think it is, more dismissals at RAFAEL and the defense industries will be inevitable. The result will be that Israel's sophisticated industries and the development of advanced means of warfare will be harmed. I think the current policy is to improve the people's living conditions, rather than take care of the defense issue. [end recording]

Discussing reserve service, Rabin said he hopes that in 1990, the reserves soldiers will be called up for 40 days a year, instead of the present 44 days. He said he had instructed the General Staff to seek ways to take advantage of the increased number of new recruits in order to alleviate the burden of the reservists. Minister Rabin's remarks were made in reply to questions by Labor-affiliated students at the Tel Aviv University. Before the defense minister's address, several dozen left-wing students rallied outside the building, demanding that the defense minister hand in his resignation in the wake of his policy in the territories.

Rejects Palestinian Statehood

TA1812175189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that only people who are prepared to commit suicide would accept the establishment of a Palestinian state in the territories and in East Jerusalem and would endorse the refugees' right to return. Appearing before Tel Aviv University students, Minister Rabin said that Israel will not accede to these two demands.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the defense minister believes that the Soviet Union is not interested in a conflagration in the Middle East for fear that this would affect the improvement of its relations with the United States. Minister Rabin hopes that next year reserve soldiers will not have to serve for more than 40 days. He pointed out that the Defense Ministry has demanded that the General Staff Command exploit the increase in the number of recruits to ease the reservists' burden.

Forum of Four Approved PLO Contacts on MIA's

TA1912100789 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 19 Dec 89 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] The defense minister's decision to allow representatives of the families of POW's and MIA's to meet with PLO officials was made with the approval of the forum of four—Shamir, Peres, Arens, and Rabin. Political sources in Jerusalem yesterday reported that this exceptional and humanitarian decision should not be viewed as a change in Israel's official stand against any contact with the PLO.

Ministries Refuse To Comment on Iran Deal

TA1912062489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Israeli sources have refused to comment on an NBC report that says Israel is offering arms, spare parts, and prisoners to Iran in exchange for oil and the release of Israeli soldiers and Western hostages. The Defense Ministry refused to comment on the report, while the Energy Ministry said it would not comment on speculation concerning oil supplies. [passage omitted]

Peres on PLO, Washington Talks, Egypt's Role

TA1512093789 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 15 Dec 89 pp 4, 5, 28

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice price minister and finance minister, by Dan Shilon; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Shilon] You said last week that negotiations with the Palestinians could be launched at once. You know perfectly well that this will not happen. In view of the conditions and assumptions Israel has presented in connection with the conditions and assumptions of Egypt and the PLO, it is even doubtful that next month's Washington summit will produce any practical results.

[Peres] I said it is possible to launch negotiations; I did not say it will happen. If the peace process is discontinued, this government will not be able to survive.

[Shilon] Meaning that the Washington summit will be your "casus belli" for disbanding the government?

[Peres] Not Washington, but rather the peace process, although Washington is certainly an important landmark. If we manage to live through the Washington summit, we will survive after that as well. We are sitting in the government to promote the peace process, which I regard as a life-and-death issue for the State of Israel. We are not in the government to control ministries or enjoy fringe benefits.

[Shilon] Your deputy, Yosi Beilin, claims that...

[Peres] You are again trying to lead me to Yosi Beilin.

[Shilon] Not to Yosi Beilin, just to his stands. And, although it makes you nervous, I would like your response to his statement that Israel is already conducting negotiations with the PLO. Why do you refuse to call a spade a spade by saying yes to negotiations with the PLO?

[Peres] There is no need for that. Nowadays the Palestinians are ready to participate in negotiations on the basis of the situation as it was defined by us. Why go beyond that? Why should we volunteer? Anyone saying "PLO" is in fact saying "PLO now." The same people said "PLO now" even 10 years ago, before the PLO recognized either Resolution 242 or 338 and before it recognized the State of Israel. It was our anti-PLO stance that changed that organization. At present, I am convinced that an elected Palestinian delegation is the best thing.

[Shilon] In reality, it will be a PLO delegation or, at least, one that will receive all its instructions from the PLO.

[Peres] It will be an elected Palestinian delegation that will take its instructions from its voters, and its decisions will be made by a majority, rather than by guns and firebombs. The world has become less violent and more democratic. Why then should I volunteer? Only because some Israelis are impatient? Let us allow the Palestinians to make progress. They are willing to come to negotiations with a delegation from the territories that would include a deportee or two. All right, I agree to that. But why should I agree to more?

[Shilon] Is it not obvious to you that by the time the process is over, you will be forced to agree to much more?

[Peres] I do not know what the end of the process will bring. We are at the beginning, and we have seen that the ends of processes can sometimes be entirely different from their beginnings.

[Shilon] And you have no strategic view? No long-term view? Is it not obvious to you that we will eventually be forced to recognize the PLO and perhaps even to agree to an independent Palestinian state?

[Peres] I certainly realize that the people who will be elected will have views not much different from those of the PLO.

[Shilon] Were you surprised to learn that Foreign Minister Moshe Arens had asked the U.S. Administration about the PLO reply to the Baker document?

[Peres] I was not surprised. If Arens is a realistic foreign minister, he must take an interest in the PLO's answer.

[Shilon] Do you share the view expressed in Yitzhaq Shamir's statement that a Palestinian state already exists in Jordan?

[Peres] No. I disagree. It is a mere saying. The problem is not what Jordan is called, but the future nature of the relationship between us and the 1.5 million Palestinians living in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Changing the marquee will not alter the content. We cannot run away from the real problem.

[Shilon] Does Israel have a right to dictate to the Palestinians the composition of their delegation to negotiations? This was part of the assumptions the Israeli Government enclosed with its consent to the Baker document.

[Peres] Israel cannot dictate the composition of the Palestinian delegation. Israel can only dictate its own participation. Israel did not dictate the composition of the Colombian soccer team either, but had the Colombians come to the field armed with guns, it would have looked different.... We would not have allowed them on the field. This is the whole difference.

[Shilon] Are you familiar with Egypt's detailed response to the Baker document, including assumptions, or conditions, posed by Egypt and the PLO?

[Peres] I can guess. Everything is actually known. We will not be able to change reality by closing our eyes. Egypt is conducting negotiations with the PLO. We know what the PLO wants, because Egypt has been making a tremendous effort to be a mailman. Having worked once for the postal authority, I have a lot of respect for mailmen. No letter would reach its destination without them. Being an Arab mailman between the Palestinians and Israel signifies enormous progress. [passage omitted]

Rocard Urges Palestinian-Israeli Dialogue

LD1812151789 Paris Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] This morning Michel Rocard, on a private visit to Israel, took advantage of the occasion of the inauguration of a street named after Pierre Mendes France in Jaffa, near Tel Aviv. He recalled that it was the former French Council president who was one of the first to advocate a dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis. Referring to a secret meeting in 1976 between a PLO official and two leaders of the Israeli left, the prime minister said these men had to have courage to go against the current, but there also had to be a mediator, and Pierre Mendes France was that man. Peace is not made between friends but between enemies who have fought and suffered, he added. War is never anything more than an easy option, and is never a solution.

French Officials Support Parity With EFTA

TA1112092989 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Dec 89 p 5

[Report by Shlomo Ma'oz and Judy Maltz]

[Text] High officials in the French Foreign Affairs Ministry are supporting Israeli attempts to win from the European Community the same treatment and agreements the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries have received, THE JERUSALEM POST has learned.

The French made their views known in a meeting with Economics Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, who visited Paris last week. The French want to take a bigger role in any Middle East settlement and, therefore, they have decided that the EC should move closer to Israel rather than put up barriers. There are no political obstacles to Israel getting EFTA terms, French officials emphasized in their meeting with the Israelis last week.

The French officials' remarks were in sharp contrast to those contained in a speech by the European Community's ambassador here yesterday.

Ambassador Gwyn Morgan told the Jeane Kirkpatrick Forum at Tel Aviv University that Israel should stop trying to achieve equal terms with EFTA in its agreements with the EC in advance of the community's move to a unified market in 1992. "It is a mistake for Israel to seek to copy anyone like EFTA. Israel is not EFTA. Israel should start to think about Israel," he said.

Israel's existing trade agreements with the EC, Morgan said, should be the basis for future negotiations concerning Europe in 1992, terming them "the bedrock of our relationship."

Israeli officials reject this. They said yesterday that Israel could not rely any longer solely on the old trade agreements, which had already been exploited by the EC to create a huge $3.5 billion trade surplus in the community's favour. Israel is the only country of the Mediterranean countries that has given trade reciprocity to the EC. To improve its opportunities, Israel must now have rights on reciprocity agreement in services, these officials said.

Israel's Standards Institute and its certificates must be recognized by the EC as equal to the EC countries' own such institutions, as has been the case with the EFTA countries, the officials said. They noted that Israel is closer in its economic and technological development to the EFTA countries than other Mediterranesn countries and that the EC Commissioner Claude Cheysson had already said Israel could be a technological partner.

The opening of EC government procurement to Israeli companies, starting next January, will open some 20 percent of the potential EC markets that have been effectively closed to Israel until now.

The ambassador criticized what he described as "signs of Israel going the wrong way" and becoming increasingly protectionist. One example, he noted, was that "while we are harmonizing standards in the EC, Israel is creating new standards, which are preventing our goods from coming in."

While Europeans could not be forced to invest in Israel, Morgan said, "no doubt that progress in the peace process would also induce business confidence."

Solidarity Official Sees Ties in 'Near Future'

TA1812103489 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 18 Dec 89 p 5

[Report by Ilan Kfir, news agencies in Warsaw]

[Excerpt] Janusz Wierzbicki, a leader of the Solidarity movement, is currently in Israel to participate in a seminar held by the institute for policy planning in Israeli-diaspora relations.

The guest reported that the Polish Government intends to announce the resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel in the near future. Wierzbicki serves as chairman of the Sejm's Foreign Affairs Commission and is rector of the University of Poznan.

Wierzbicki is considered to be one of the rising stars in the new Polish Administration. He has also expressed ardent support for the immediate renewal of diplomatic relations between Poland and Israel. [passage omitted]

Ambassador to Hungary To Present Credentials

TA1712151789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Shlomo Marom will present his credentials as Israeli ambassador to Hungary on Friday. This completes the resumption of ties with Hungary which were severed in 1967. Hungary still has not decided who will be named ambassador to Israel.

Foreign Ministry Appoints New Ambassadors

TA1812101989 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Dec 89 p 2

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry Appointments Committee yesterday nominated Yo'el Alon, a Holocaust survivor and a Mengele twin, ambassador to Norway.

Alon, 55, who is a division director in the ministry's Europe Department, will replace Yehi'el Yativ once his appointment is confirmed by the government in Oslo.

Mikha'el Bavli, who also directs a division in the Europe Department, was nominated as ambassador to the Netherlands, replacing Ze'ev Sufot. Bavli was formerly consul-general in Boston and minister in Rome.

Shmu'el Hadas, an adviser to the foreign minister and director of scientific and cultural affairs at the ministry, was appointed ambassador to UNESCO headquarters in Paris. Hadas has been ambassador to several Latin American countries and was Israel's first ambassador to Spain.

Uri Gordon, currently charged with church and Jerusalem affairs at the ministry, will replace Yehuda Milo as charge d'affaires at the legation in Istanbul.

Local Arms Reportedly Provided to Ethiopia

JN1612175589 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 14 Dec 89 pp 1, 24

[Excerpts] London—Highly-placed Western diplomatic sources have revealed that at the end of last month, Israel supplied the Ethiopian Air Force [EAF] with four small drones of the Pioneer and Scout types manufactured by the Israeli Aircraft Industries. The sources said the drones would be used for reconnaissance and espionage purposes in the skies over Ethiopian provinces that are controlled by the Eritrean revolutionaries, particularly the provinces of Eritrea and Nijamina [name as published]. The sources pointed out that the EAF will begin using these drones by the end of this month, and that Israeli Air Force experts are currently training EAF crews in one of the Ethiopian air bases. The sources added that Israel is studying the possibility of supplying the EAF with seven Israeli-made fighter-bomber planes of the Kfir type to be used in air raids on positions of the Eritrean revolutionaries.

Early this week, Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam asked Israeli war minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to lend Kfir planes to his Air Force for a specific period of time. He proposed that these planes be piloted by Israelis. The sources said that at the end of last week, Israel supplied the EAF with the second shipment of cluster bombs to be used against the Eritrean revolutionaries. This shipment contained 82 cluster bombs.

In mid-November, Israel supplied the EAF with 27 cluster bombs. The Western sources said that these cluster bombs are Israeli-made and are being manufactured by the Israeli Aircraft Industries after obtaining the design from the United States. [passage omitted]

In another development, the sources pointed out that early this week, Colonel John Garang, leader of the rebels in southern Sudan, asked Israel to supply his forces with heavy field 130-mm, 155-mm, and 160-mm guns and heavy 120-mm and 160-mm mortars, in addition to large quantities of ammunition to be used against the Sudanese forces that are currently carrying out large-scale attacks on his forces. Col John Garang also has requested that his forces be supplied as soon as possible with several heavy anti-aircraft guns, surface-to-air Stinger missiles, and U.S.-made anti-armor TOW missiles. The sources said that the list of weapons and equipment Col Garang has submitted to the Israeli war ministry was very long, and that most of the weapons he has requested are heavy ones, as though he were planning to expand the war in southern Sudan.

Charge d'Affaires Heads New Embassy in Ethiopia

TA1812135889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Having resumed diplomatic relations with Ethiopia about 1 month ago, Israel yesterday opened its diplomatic mission in that country. The mission will be headed by Me'ir Yosef, the charge d'affaires, until such time as a permanent ambassador is appointed. Ethiopia has not opened its embassy in Israel yet.

Aeroflot Begins Direct Flights From Moscow

TA1712155289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] Two planes belonging to Aeroflot, the Soviet national carrier, landed in Israel a short while ago. The planes came on a direct flight from Moscow and will return with the first cargo of Israeli agricultural produce. The planes did not land at Ben-Gurion Airport but rather at an adjacent military base, because El Al and Aeroflot have not yet signed the agreement governing landing rights between them. Our correspondent Ya'el Ben-Yehuda reports that the planes brought the Moiseyev troupe, which is the USSR's national dance troupe. As stated earlier, the planes will return to Moscow tomorrow carrying the first load of agricultural exports destined for the Soviet Union.

Shots From Egypt Reportedly Fired at IDF Patrol

TA1712210089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Military sources today confirmed that shots were fired at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol from the direction of Egypt on 15 December. The incident occurred near the border fence between Israel and Egypt. The sources reported that an IDF patrol moving along the Israeli-Egyptian border line on 15 December heard several shots fired in its direction from the Egyptian side of the border. The IDF has investigated the circumstances of the incident, and the details will be delivered to the Egyptians via the IDF liaison unit for Egypt.

Terner Appointed New Police Commissioner

TA1712102389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev has notified the top echelon of Israel Police that the new commissioner will be Ya'aqov Terner. Minister Bar-Lev pointed out that there had been a few candidates for the job, but he ultimately decided to appoint Terner after consulting with David Kraus, the current commissioner, and other senior officers. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that Bar-Lev and Kraus wished Terner success in his new job. Minister Bar-Lev also praised outgoing Commissioner David Kraus, saying he had fulfilled his job in a highly successful manner.

Ya'aqov Terner, aged 54, joined Israel Police 4 and ½ years ago after retiring from the Israel Air Force with the rank of brigadier general. He will assume his position on 1 April.

Civil Administration Head Meets With Al-Zuhar

TA1512103989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Dec 89 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Brigadier General Arye Shifman-Ramot, the head of the Civil Administration, yesterday conferred with Dr Mahmud al-Zuhar, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader in the Gaza Strip, who has been under administration detention. His name has recently been mentioned as the Hamas representative on the Palestinian delegation for talks with Israel.

According to Palestinian sources, Dr al-Zuhar was summoned to Brig Gen Shifman's office and, with the help of translator Major Yig'al Gabay, conferred with him about the latest Middle East political events. Senior Palestinian sources in the Gaza Strip reported that the head of the Civil Administration conferred with Dr al-Zuhar about the composition of the Palestinian delegation to negotiations with Israel and about Hamas representation. According to the sources, Brig Gen Shifman told Dr al-Zuhar that if Hamas is to participate in the delegation, Israel must know beforehand whether the movement recognizes the State of Israel's right to exist. Brig Gen Shifman told Dr al-Zuhar, according to the Palestinian sources, that he wants an immediate answer from him, because Israel does not negotiate with elements that deny its right to exist.

Dr Mahmud al-Zuhar told Brig Gen Shifman that he cannot give him an on-the-spot reply and that he does not know whether Hamas will make do with a state made up of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian sources also claim that Brig Gen Shifman pressured Dr al-Zuhar for an answer and even hinted to him that it would be no problem to put him under administrative detention again if he does not have immediate answers.

Brig Gen Shifman confirmed last night that he had invited Dr al-Zuhar for a talk, as he has been doing daily with other Gaza Strip leaders. According to Brig Gen Shifman, they discussed routine issues, and he wanted to hear Dr al-Zuhar's personal stand on political issues.

In answer to the question whether it was correct that he had threatened Dr al-Zuhar with administrative detention, Brig Gen Shifman replied: "I told him that because he has been under administrative detention in the past, he should watch himself. I tell that to all Gaza Strip leaders who have been under administrative detention."

Betzelem Issues 1st Annual Report on Fatalities

TA1712200689 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Exactly 586 residents of the territories have been killed by the security forces since the beginning of the intifadah, while 25 Arabs were killed by Israeli civilians. During this period, 19 Israeli civilians have been murdered in the territories, and 27 Israelis have been killed within the Green Line. These statistics were reported this evening in Tel Aviv in the first annual report published by Betzelem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories.

Our correspondent Moshe Nestelbaum notes that the report also stated that 156 residents of the territories had been murdered by Arabs on suspicion of assisting the authorities during the 2 years that have passed since the intifadah's inception.

Rise in Child Casualties Noted

TA1912110889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Dec 89 p 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] The second year of the uprising saw a "drastic rise" in the number of children aged 16 and under killed by the security forces, according to the first annual report of Betzelem, the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories.

The report surveys human rights, violations in the territories, and provides statistics and background information on such topics as deportations, house demolitions, arrests, curfews and closure of educational institutions.

The report says the number of children killed in the intifada's second year rose by 57 percent, reaching 80 as compared to 51 during the intifada's first year. About three times as many children aged 12 and under were killed in the intifada's second year (28), than were killed in its first (9).

More than half the Palestinians killed were between the ages of 17 and 24, according to the report.

In its section on injuries from gunfire, the report notes that the frequency of head, chest and stomach wounds among Gaza Strip Palestinians during the intifada was greater than among Israeli soldiers in the Yom Kippur or Lebanon War.

"The impression received is of rather free use of gunfire leading to critical injury, beyond what is necessary to disperse a demonstration or impose order, and without sufficient care taken to avoid hitting children," says the report.

In another chapter, the report says the authorities have discriminated between Palestinians and Israelis in enforcing the law in the territories. While Palestinians caught throwing stones have received sentences of up to 10 years, or have even had their homes demolished, Israeli civilians who rioted in Arab communities were not prosecuted. Out of 25 killings of Palestinians in which Israelis are suspected, only one has been tried and convicted.

'Terrorist Squad' Uncovered in Gaza Strip

TA1812122489

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 18 December in a page 5 report by Oren Kohen, Mikhal Qedem, and Fayiz 'Abbas reports that "security forces uncovered a terrorist squad in the Gaza Strip that had murdered Husayn Abu-'Awda, a suspected collaborator, in Khan Yunus in May 1989. The squad had also attempted to kill a mukhtar from the Gaza Strip who was suspected of cooperating with the authorities. The squad also had stolen weapons from soldiers and had distributed leaflets. Charges were filed yesterday against the squad's four members." The report adds that "The Tuffah school in Gaza was ordered closed yesterday following a serious incident in the morning in which three Border Police officers, a Civil Administration official, and 17 local residents were injured."

A similar report by Oren Kohen on page 1 of HADASHOT reports that "for the first time since the beginning of the intifadah, seven jeeps belonging to the 'Palestinian popular army' appeared in a military parade in the West Bank. The incident took place in the village of Talluza, and approximately 160 residents marched in the procession. Some of the participants were riding civilian jeeps that were called 'military jeeps.' The marchers wore khaki uniforms, donned keffiyahs, and were armed with axes, clubs, and swords. They carried about 100 flags and pictures of Yasir 'Arafat."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 18 December in a Roni Shaqed report on page 4 adds that "two youths were injured in Hebron after shots were fired at the car in which they were traveling. According to Arab sources, the two youths had ignored soldiers' calls to halt." The report later states that "three youths were injured by plastic bullets in the village of Bayt Immar during clashes with soldiers on 16 December."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 18 December in a section A, page 6 report by Yosi Levi notes that "two girls were injured yesterday after a phosphorous grenade was thrown at a grocery store in East Jerusalem's Muslim Quarter. The police believe the incident had a nationalist background."

Possible 'Pitfalls' of Peace Process Reviewed

TA0812134489 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 8 Dec 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Not Enough Gas"]

[Text] The decision by Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Arens to adopt a favorable attitude toward the Egyptian response to U.S. Secretary of State Baker's five-point plan is encouraging and paves the way for a meeting between the Israeli, Egyptian, and U.S. foreign ministers to discuss the composition of the Palestinian delegation and the agenda of the talks.

Shamir and Arens have apparently understood that foot-dragging and further argument at home and abroad will be to no avail, the United States and the Alignment having both described the Egyptian response to the Baker proposal as a positive answer. Nevertheless, one should keep in mind the fact that the road that has just been opened is strewn with many pitfalls. To enable the process to really get going, Israel will have to agree to some form of compromise regarding the composition of the Palestinian delegation, or, in other words, go back on its declared position which stipulates that only Palestinians currently residing in the territories may participate in the delegation.

Even though we are talking about an Egyptian response, everyone knows that in these political maneuvers Egypt is representing the PLO. Egypt has in the past declared this to be so, and has not recanted. Verbal gymnastics do not alter the fact that the PLO is a partner to the political moves, even if behind the scenes. Nor is there any doubt of the fact that any representatives from the territories participating in the delegation would have to be acceptable to the PLO, and in any case would be acting under PLO guidance during the talks with Israel.

The intifadah is now 2 years old. It has exhausted both the Palestinians and the Israelis for no real evident purpose. Nevertheless, all signs indicate that the Palestinians are not prepared to stop the uprising or their struggle. The Egyptian response—and its acceptance by Shamir and Arens—offers the peace process, which is the only thing that can end the intifadah, a limited supply of oxygen.

The Prime Minister's Bureau's declaration that there is something to talk about is important, but the main problem is to whom they will talk. This crucial question, as well as the issue of the agenda of the talks, is expected to cause further argument during the meeting between Arens and his colleagues James Baker and 'Abd-al-Majid. Egypt may be capable of persuading the PLO to stay on the sidelines, but it is doubtful whether it can agree to the composition of a Palestinian delegation, and an agenda for talks in Cairo, without the PLO's tacit approval.

Shamir and Arens were able to accept the Egyptian response mainly because the PLO was not mentioned, and because the response states that Egypt considers itself to be a partner to the talks, and not merely the PLO's "mailman." But whoever interprets the Egyptian reply to constitute an Egyptian abandonment of its commitments to the PLO, and especially its commitment to represent the PLO's interests, is taking the easy way out and deluding himself and others.

The political process has just been injected with some drops of gasoline, but reaching the talks in Cairo on the election plan will demand a lot of energy. No agreement regarding the composition of the Palestinian delegation or on the agenda of the talks can yet be seen on the horizon.

Editorial Affirms PLO's Role in Peace Process

TA0712194289 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 7 Dec 89 p 7

[Editorial: "John Kelly and the Peace Process"]

[Text] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly's trip to the region, which specifically included Israel and Egypt, joins the scores of similar visits undertaken by U.S. envoys over the past long years under the slogan of "advancing the peace efforts and searching for a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict," although this visit came as a result of the U.S.-Soviet summit in Malta and after Washington had received the Palestinian response to its proposals.

Following the conclusion of his talks with Israeli officials, headed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Kelly said: "The situation is ripe for launching the peace process in the region." At the end of his talks in Cairo, Kelly affirmed that the Malta summit "attached importance to finding a peaceful solution in the Middle East," and that "the question of Palestinian representation is still under discussion."

Shamir, who probably feared that people might entertain a sense of optimism regarding possible changes, hastened to comment on Kelly's remarks by affirming Israel's refusal to negotiate with the PLO, whether directly or indirectly, saying that Israel was still awaiting Egypt's response to Baker's plan.

As Kelly's trip has reaffirmed, the U.S. and Israeli sides still insist on ignoring the basic party in the conflict's equation. The U.S. envoy did not bother to refer to the Palestinian response when he said that Washington had received Israel's response and was now awaiting the Egyptian response. Moreover, he insisted on not meeting with any Palestinian official, thus ignoring the major role that the PLO must play in the political process and reaffirming that Washington is not dealing as a peace mediator but as a biased side adopting preconceived positions. Furthermore, by insisting that it was waiting for the Egyptian response, the Israeli side was ignoring a number of facts, foremost of which is that Cairo and Amman have emphasized that they can never be an alternative to the Palestinians.

The era of trusteeship and wagers on excluding the Palestinian side has ended forever. Today it is not possible to find a solution to the Palestinian problem without the participation of the Palestinian people's legitimate representative. Only the Palestinian side, as a major party, can discuss any settlement that concerns its future and destiny. This does not signify the PLO's refusal to coordinate with the Arab brothers on anything that will serve the Palestinian cause and the Arab interests. Moreover, this does not negate the Palestinian problem's relationship with the Arab side in general and the countries bordering Israel in particular.

The Middle East problems, specifically the Palestinian question, are in need of real solutions and not more visits and useless motions. The problem is not Palestinian representation, which a long time ago was resolved by the Palestinian people and reinforced by international legitimacy, and in which no one has the right to interfere except the Palestinian people. The problem also is not the delay of the Egyptian response, or wavering in finding solutions, or agreeing that the region requires solutions, but progress toward implementing clear principles that ensure the interests of all parties, including the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which is their right to self-determination. Persistence in ignoring this is the main thing that prevents progress toward peace.

U.S. Warned Against Supercomputers to Israel

JN1712112289 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Dec 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Supercomputers vs. Super Wisdom"]

[Text] Persistent reports from Washington that it is on the verge of approving the export of supercomputers to Israel are very disturbing. For one thing, such supercomputers, whether for civilian or military use, would provide Israel with the know-how to produce its ultimate weapon, the thermonuclear bomb. What is even more troubling is the apparent link being made between Israel's shallow acceptance of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five-point plan for initial Palestinian-Israeli talks and the delivery of such awesome technology to Tel Aviv. It is unfortunate that Israel always gets away with its repeated ploys to give a conditional, superficial or even tactical acceptance of some American initiative or another only to help it acquire some urgently needed economic or military assistance from the U.S. With all evidence indicating that Israel's involvement in the Baker plan being only tactical, the U.S.-Israeli deal about the so-called Gray supercomputer destined to be deployed by the Haifa Technion should cause a great deal of concern in the Arab World.

A concerted diplomatic Arab effort must be exerted, therefore, as a matter of highest priority to thwart Israel's determination to acquire supercomputers from the U.S. Washington must also be served with an immediate notice that any licensing of the export of such technology to Israel would mean that the U.S. entertains hostile intentions towards the entire Arab World and that the true purpose of offering the concerned Arab parties to the Arab-Israeli conflicts a peace plan is just to take them for a ride.

As there is already fear that the Baker's plan could end up being an open ended process, which Tel Aviv intends to exploit to the maximum, there would be nothing more damaging to the U.S. initiative than to couple it with the export of such dangerous technology that would surely open the way for Israel to acquire thermonuclear weapons. It is bad enough that Israel already possesses nuclear weapons, any acquisition of thermonuclear bombs would leave Israel with no incentive whatsover to negotiate peace on the basis of any plan. Surely Washington knows that with the advent of the era of rocketry and other forms of mass destructive weapons to the Middle East it would be suicidal to augment the spiral of super technology armament in the region by giving Israel access to the ultimate destructive weapon, the thermonuclear bomb.

Time is ripe for restraint and for pushing forward the peace process as fast as possible lest it becomes outstripped by the introduction of super modern weaponry that could only trigger the lust for armed conflicts in the region. What Israel needs now is not supercomputer but rather super wisdom from its allies and friends. For as long as peace in the Middle East remains elusive, the alternative will always be the resort to wars to settle the score.

King Views Local, World Changes in Address

JN1812183189 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1405 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Amman, 18 Dec (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn has emphasized that he looks to democracy in Jordan being sufficiently nurtured and consolidated so it can become a way of life. Democracy in Jordan only can be fostered if it is reflected in the conscience and behavior of the people, his majesty added. Within the framework of democracy, freedom means a sense of responsibility and commitment. Hence the dictum that democracy carries with it its own constraints. These checks should translate into honoring the constitution and its clauses, both by the executive branch of government and by the people. It follows we all are responsible for safeguarding democracy, since we all are equal before the law and are dutybound to be law-abiding citizens.

Addressing the commencement today of the 3d class of the Royal War College and the 30th class of the Command and Staff College, his majesty added: The House of Representatives, which was elected through a free and fair ballot, amounts to a national feat of historic significance, inasmuch as it has secured the third dimension in the edifice of our national security.

His Majesty noted the shift from confrontation to cooperation in the relationship between the superpowers, citing the Bush-Gorbachev Malta summit, which he said virtually has terminated the cold war epoch of the past 4 decades. His majesty wondered about the implications of this shift for the Middle East, and more specifically the Palestine issue, which, he said, is as old as the cold war.

The blessings of international detente as we understand it ought to spread to all humanity rather than be enjoyed by only a segment. Perhaps a priority concern for us should be to closely and intelligently watch accelerating worldwide changes and shifting constellations of power, lest we be overtaken by new patterns of relations deterimental to our interests.

His majesty stated that arriving at a common Arab perception of a shifting world order ought to be pursued vigorously as a priority. It is high time regionalism was shed and inter-Arab complementarity was accorded the attention it merits as the ideal route to the survival and wellbeing of our nation.

Governor Orders Release of Al-Yarmuk Detainees

JN1912084089 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Dec 89 pp 1, 20

[By Majid Saji' in Irbid]

[Text] Irbid Governor Jawdat al-Subul yesterday received at his office a group of al-Yarmuk University students and their parents, including students who participated in the fighting that occured a few days ago at the university. The students expressed regret and apologized for everything they and their colleagues had caused.

The governor summoned the detainees, who also expressed deep regret over what happened, contrary to what should have prevailed; namely, a feeling compatible with the democratic atmosphere which permeates the country in light of the directives of King Husayn, leader of the homeland.

The students promised to shun everything that might harm the welfare of the homeland, the unity of its sons, or the intactness of its fabric. They also promised to take full responsibility for their words and actions.

Following this, the governor issued an order for the immediate release of all detainees without exception. The governor expressed hope all students would pay attention to their academic studies and be aware of plots and rumors are aimed only at challenging the blessing of the homeland's security and its promising democratic march.

Moreover, the members of the al-Yarmuk University student dialogue committee, which was formed in light of the recent regrettable incidents, expressed regret and denunciation of the attempts that targetted the unity of the two peoples—Palestinian and Jordanian. They also affirmed determination to transcend the negative aspects produced by the recent incidents through a united stand that reflects the two peoples' common objectives. They also affirmed they will remain united in the face of everyone who harbors evil to our national unity.

Crown Prince Returns From U.S., France, Britain

JN1812211489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Amman—His Royal Higness Crown Prince Hasan returned to Amman this evening at the conclusion of a tour that took him to France, the United States, and Britain. [passage omitted]

'Awn Reportedly Sends Message to U.S. Envoy

NC1912104289 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 18 Dec 89 p 5

[Text] Michel 'Awn has sent a written message to the U.S. ambassador in Damascus in which 'Awn says that he will accept any agreement reached between Washington and Damascus regarding Lebanon, provided he is the president who will implement this agreement.

Washington's ambassador to Damascus showed the message to one of President al-Hirawi's friends, but he did not give him a copy of it.

'Awn Says People Refuse U.S. 'Instructions'

NC1712203689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has said that the Lebanese people refuse to receive instructions from the United States, which was never their guardian. He affirmed that his goal is to liberate all the Lebanese areas. He called upon the Syrian occupation forces to correct their course and return to the Golan Heights instead of staying in Lebanon.

Sham'un Criticizes Bush Support for Syria

NC1812183689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] National Liberal Party leader Dany Sham'un has expressed surprise at what he described as a contradiction in President Bush's foreign policy. He said that at a time when Bush applauds any operation against drug trafficking and terrorism in Colombia, he strongly supports drug trafficking by supporting Syria's policy.

He affirmed that the Lebanese people will resist until the last Syrian soldier leaves Lebanon. He said: We are staying here. We are awaiting the arrival of the new U.S. President [as heard] to reach an understanding with him on a solution to the Lebanese crisis on the one hand, and the Middle East crisis on the other.

'Awn Addresses Message to Nationals in U.S.

NC1712211789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] After Washington and Paris declared their support for the al-Ta'if agreement and the legitimate Lebanese government yesterday, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn this evening addressed a message to the Lebanese in the United States and the U.S. people, saying:

Why are international efforts being mobilized to find a solution that will meet the aspirations of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip while the occupation's repressive practices and threats against the Lebanese people in their own homeland are being disregarded and blessed?

O Lebanese in the United States, do not stop shaking the world's conscience until Lebanon has rested. Your people in Lebanon have made a decision not to allow themselves to be displaced and dispersed throughout the world. You must support their decision because their fate is now in need of this effective support.

General 'Awn received a delegation of 50 French, American, and Japanese students at 2030 today.

In another development, the Central Bureau for National Coordination announced that tomorrow, Monday, will be a normal working day in all sectors. It called for continuing the open-ended sit-in in B'abda Palace courtyard.

Hizballah Official on U.S. Warning on Attacks

NC1612191989 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] A Hizballah official in Lebanon announced this morning that the U.S. State Department's recent warning to American citizens of the possibility of attacks by the party in West Europe expresses the U.S. Government's permanent fear of revolutionary powers and Hizballah forces.

He said this fear is a result of the U.S. Administration's practices and brutal attacks on the Hizballah nation and the oppressed and Islamic peoples, which have made it live in a state of continuous anxiety for fear of reprisals.

He added: We are America's arch enemies. We view Washington's arrogant policy as one of self-interest, seeking to exploit peoples and intervene in their internal affairs, in Lebanon in particular and in the region as a whole. We confront this policy forcefully and firmly.

He continued: This American decision is one in a series of provocative measures designed to inflame the European countries' passions and encourage these countries to support the hostile American policy against the Muslims.

The Hizballah official noted that such stands will only consolidate our steadfast determination to foil the American conspiracies in the region.

Junblatt Comments on Current Situation

NC1712202389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt detailed his position on the situation in Lebanon in an interview with AL-NAHAR to be published tomorrow.

Junblatt said: We are at a stage where the fate of the country is threatened. Partition is being consolidated and the Arab reaction is varied at a time when the country's fate is at stake. He added that the government's measures taken so far are not enough and the pace of action is very slow, as if the country were in the best of conditions. He said the situation requires a war government, a government of emergency, to encircle and avoid partition and consequently to let the Arabs shoulder their responsibility.

On whether or not the trend for unity is capable of deciding the situation, Junblatt said: You must ask the people, from President al-Hirawi to Dr al-Huss to all the ministers: Do they believe that partition is the solution? He added that the government must take the appropriate measures to prevent partition and contain it politically at Arab and international levels. He asked whether the Ablah government has conviction. He said: The government is not enough. The so-called leaders of the country must meet to make an historic decision; the government alone cannot do so. On the plan for confrontation, Junblatt said all those loyal to Lebanon's unity, from the north to the south, must meet and make the appropriate decisions. This call is addressed to Mikha'il al-Dahir, Nabih Birri, Sulayman Franjiyah, Sulayman Tony Franjiyah who has a future, up to Walid Junblatt. What is required is the adoption of a political decision.

Junblatt denied that the decentralization plan has been submitted to him. He said: We as a cabinet, or what is termed the legitimacy, must consolidate Lebanon's unity. If we cannot do so, then let us take the political, financial, administrative, and economic measures to consolidate the unity of the areas under our control.

On the PSP's stand on al-Ta'if accord, Junblatt said: We opposed this accord in principle but there is no alternative for it today. He queried the method of implementation, and referred to the measures taken by the government which Michel 'Awn rejects. He said: Time is not in our favor. We must meet day and night. Let us (?dismiss) Edmond Na'im [words indistinct] as governor of the Central Bank. He is not abiding by the finance minister's decisions. [Words indistinct] those in charge of electricity, [word indistinct], and others. There are day dreamers inside the cabinet who are not aware of the dangers. He added: It is possible to make a decision to (?enlist volunteers) in the army, to unite the brigades, and to form a command. But it is not permissible for each brigade [word indistinct] to be independent. Every rank from colonel and above must be [word indistinct].

On why Syria has not decided the situation, Junblatt asked: Has our government asked for a military decision? Has President al-Hirawi asked for it? No. Then why should we hold Syria responsible and blame it? Asked whether the decision is possible, he said: Of course, and if Syria intervenes then the formula will change.

Explaining his stand, Walid Junblatt then said: If Lebanon is partitioned, then the Sykes-Picot agreement [British-French agreement after World War I to divide the Middle East] must be reviewed. Our demand is Lebanon's unity in order to avoid its partition and other partitions in the region because this region would then be afflicted and Tel Aviv would become the capital of the Arab world. The oil wells are in danger.

Regarding the position of the Vatican, the PSP leader said: It supports partition and the Christian state. The pope refused to receive the Arab committee, to receive the representative of the custodian of the two holy mosques, and this slap to the Arabs is evident and it will affect Islamic-Christian coexistence.

Regarding the French position, he said: Its form has changed. France supports the legitimate authority but does not exert pressure on 'Awn after having fully supported him, as the British did in 1947 when they facilitated the establishment of Israel and then withdrew.

As to the U.S. position, Junblatt said: They are dealing with the issues realistically and pragmatically, but the Zionist lobby is deeply influential in the U.S. Administration.

Speaking about the events in the south, Junblatt said: Yasir 'Arafat outwardly supports the intifadah. But from his contacts, he knows that Israel will not give up the West Bank and that Jewish emigration to Israel is increasing. Around 70,000 Soviet emigrants arrived in Palestine this year. King Husayn is more capable than 'Arafat and he had guarantees but had withdrawn from the West Bank. 'Arafat's opportunism is limitless. 'Arafat's geography is Lebanon. Thus a united Lebanon does not suit 'Arafat's plan and what took place in Sidon is an indication of this.

Asked whether he supports a new agreement with the Palestinians, Junblatt said: The Cairo agreement is dead. 'Arafat's statements and his declarations about a Druze state is an incitement against the Druze. He is in fact working for settling [Palestinians in South Lebanon].

Junblatt expressed his readiness to have the Popular Liberation Army merge with the army on the basis of making the brigades mixed and getting rid of the agents in al-Yarzah. He said: Lebanon can only be established through a unified army.

Minister Notes Army's Inability To Oust 'Awn

NC1812163589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1226 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 18 Dec (MENA)—Lebanese Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul has affirmed that Egypt, with its significant moral influence, is playing a major, effective, and positive role in solving the Lebanese crisis. He added that Egypt embarked on this basic role some time ago and noted that its efforts will have their effect.

In an exclusive interview with the MENA Arab affairs editor, Dallul said that the new relationship between Egypt and Syria will have a positive effect on Lebanese affairs and is bound to help to mobilize Arab efforts to seek an end to the anomalous situation in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

The Lebanese agriculture minister added that the current situation in Lebanon cannot be accepted because that would mean accepting partition. He said that if efforts to persuade 'Awn to abandon his present position and to allow the legitimate authorities to perform their role succeed, this will be a positive development. Dallul noted, however, that if 'Awn refuses and the efforts are deadlocked, then a limited military operation to oust him from the Presidential Palace will be inevitable. He stressed that there will not be a return to artillery exchanges that harm civilians. [passage omitted]

Muhsin Dallul asserted that the legitimate 18,000-man Lebanese Armed Forces, those loyal to President al-Hirawi, will not be able to end 'Awn's anomalous situation until they are properly equipped. He said that these forces do not currently possess heavy armaments and modern equipment like 'Awn's forces, which number between 12,000 and 13,000. He added that there is much hope that the forces under the command of the deposed general will again rejoin the legitimate command and abandon the mutinous officer. [passage omitted]

The Lebanese agriculture minister noted that the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Beirut at this time would imperil the al-Ta'if agreement and pose a partitionist threat to Lebanon because the Islamic nationlist group does not accept all aspects of the al-Ta'if agreement and believes that it represents the minimum requirement. He noted that this group accepted the agreement under pressure from the Syrians who are making major efforts to push it through.

The Lebanese minister asserted that Syria is willing to withdraw from numerous Lebanese areas but the Islamic and nationalist forces reject this because it might lead to a catastrophe. He said that they are demanding that the Syrian forces remain until the legitimate Lebanese Government establishes its authority over all Lebanese territories. [passage omitted]

Arms Said Requested From France, Syria, Algeria

NC1912065389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] AL-DIYAR newspaper reports that the government of President al-Hirawi has asked that weapons, tanks, and ammunition from France, Algeria, and Syria be leased to the Lebanese Army to reinforce the capabilities of the army led by General Emile Lahhud. Defense Minister Albert Mansur submitted a report on the army's requirements at the latest cabinet meeting. It has been learned that Damascus provided more than 100 tanks in the last few days for this purpose.

Harb Meets al-Huss, Comments on Recent Visits

NC1812202989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss tonight received Deputy Butrus Harb, President al-Hirawi's envoy to Paris and the Vatican, who said that he briefed al-Huss in his capacity as foreign minister on the atmosphere and the results of his mission. He pointed out that his mission was to explain the situation in Lebanon and demand an understanding of this situation as well as the support of all friendly states, particularly France and the Vatican, in understanding the developments in Lebanon and request them to help the legitimate authority to start the process of peace and the salvation of Lebanon and the restoration of its unity and sovereignty.

Harb said that the French stand was clear and unequivocal. Regarding the Vatican's stand, he said: There was no request for approval or support but for an appointment to explain the situation in Lebanon and the need to understand it. He said: My visit to The Vatican took place and it was not cancelled. I was not required to meet with the Pope but with officials in the Vatican departments that are concerned with the Lebanese dossier.

Pope Expected To Meet With Arab Committee

NC1912071589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] AL-NAHAR newspaper today reports that the problem that arose between the Vatican and the Arab committee has been resolved. Pope John Paul II is expected to meet with the members of the Arab ministerial committee tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. Other sources expect the meeting to take place between Christmas and the new year.

Political sources expect the Vatican to announce a specific position on the situation in Lebanon before the new year. Sources close to Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss have been cited as saying that the thaw in the issue of the pope's meeting with the Arab committee members was the result of direct contacts between the committee's member states and some major powers with The Vatican. It has been said in this respect that the Arab committee members made a protocol error by failing to consult first with the Vatican over the most suitable time for an audience with the pope.

According to some sources, Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente will present his credentials to President al-Hirawi after the holidays.

ICRC Chairman Meets Al-Hirawi, Comments

NC1812132889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] President al-Hirawi has received Cornelio Sommaruga, chairman of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], who asked for help to bring about the release of Emmanuel Christian and Elio Erriquez, the two ICRC representatives [kidnapped in southern Lebanon on 6 October].

Sommaruga said Al-Hirawi had emphasized his rejection of all forms of terrorism, especially the kidnapping of ICRC representatives.

Meanwhile, the ICRC has issued a statement, reiterating its wish to continue its task in Lebanon, the termination of which had been under consideration.

It also issued a strong appeal for the release of its employees.

'Awn Cabinet Discusses Withholding Funds

NC1912132789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] The cabinet held a meeting under General 'Awn at B'abda Palace today.

The cabinet discussed certain practices whose purpose is to fragment the state and administration and harass the citizens in the free areas, in compliance with the desire of the occupier and his designs in the occupied areas.

The cabinet warned against any attempt to apply pressure on the Central Bank, departments, and officials to prevent them from paying sums due to the employees and to delay the mechanism of the arrival of the money that is owed to all the citizens and institutions in the eastern areas.

Under the penalty of the law, the cabinet also warned the Central Bank against acquiescing in these practices, especially the withholding of the necessary funds from bank branches. This will compel the cabinet to adopt stern measures of various kinds, to protect the people's rights, and safeguard the state's finances.

Fatah's Muragha Comments on Lebanon, Intifadah

NC1812084289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary of Fatah-The Provisional Command, has said that the developments in Lebanon result from the Zionist enemy's presence. He noted that the Arabs do not want a solution in Lebanon because they do not want the Islamic and nationalist forces to eliminate domestic issues in order to face a greater plan, the Zionist entity.

He said the plans of Zionist entity Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, and head of the Egyptian regime Husni Mubarak are deceptive and can no longer fool the Palestinian people.

He noted that the goals of the Zionist entity are not limited to Palestine and that it has plans for Palestine to be a base of aggression against the Arab nation.

He said the intifadah's aim in the occupied territories is to unify the Palestinian people in all the Palestinian territories.

Resistance Attacks Lahd Patrol, Israeli Position

NC1812073589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] According to reports from the south, resistance fighters detonated an explosive device as a patrol of agent Lahd's militiamen was passing near the occupied town of al-'Ayshiyah in the Marj 'Uyun sector yesterday. The blast damaged a vehicle, killing or wounding several of its passengers. A 50-man joint Israeli-Lahd patrol escorted by 8 armored vehicles raked the combat lines of al-'Ayshiyah, al-Khardali, and al-Jarmaq with artillery fire.

Meanwhile, resistance fighters yesterday fired rockets at a position manned by the Israeli forces and their agents in Yarin, scoring direct hits. Fires broke out in the position.

In another development, the Israeli Navy continues its acts of piracy against Lebanese fishermen. Israeli naval forces have been firing at fishermen for the past 2 days.

Fishing Boat Stopped by Israelis

TA1612054489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Kuwaiti radio reported last night that an Israeli naval vessel stopped a Lebanese fishing boat yesterday off the Lebanese coast, arrested two of the people on board, and took them to Israel for interrogation. The radio said fishermen in Sidon threatened to stage a sit-down strike outside the local Red Cross office unless the two men were released.

Voice of Israel Radio monitor Mikha'el Gurdus says a South Lebanese Army [SLA] position was reportedly attacked east of Sidon, and afterward there were fierce gun battles between the SLA and Lebanese Muslim militiamen supported by Palestinian terrorists.

2 Resistance Fighters Killed by Israeli Forces

NC1912065789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Excerpt] In the resisting south, two resistance fighters were martyred during a violent confrontation between a Lebanese resistance group and a group comprised of Israeli forces and agent Lahd's militiamen on the outskirts of al-Habbariyah yesterday. One agent was killed and two others injured during the clashes.

Meanwhile, resistance fighters have carried out three daring operations against the occupation forces and their militiamen in al-'Ayshiyah, 'Alman, and al-Jarmaq. [passage omitted]

Further on Casualties

TA1812135389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Two terrorists were killed and a South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldier sustained severe injuries in a clash between an SLA unit and a terrorist squad in the eastern sector of the security zone this afternoon. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that SLA soldiers pursued the terrorist squads, killing two. The critically injured soldier was transferred to the Marj 'Uyun Hospital.

SLA Soldier Dies of Wounds

TA1812164389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Report by correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz]

[Text] The clash occurred in the vicinity of the village of al-Habbariyah, 4 km south of Hasbayya on the northwestern slopes of Har Dov. Patrolling this difficult terrain, the South Lebanese Army [SLA] troops sighted a terrorist gang making its way into the security zone. The SLA soldiers opened fire, killing two terrorists. An SLA soldier was critically wounded and transferred to the Marj 'Uyun Hospital, where he later died of his wounds.

A search of the terrorists' possessions revealed two Kalashnikov rifles, magazines, much ammunition, and flak jackets.

In the wake of the numerous successful operations carried out recently by well-trained SLA units, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] handed over responsibility for several security zone positions to the SLA troops. The move was a result of the IDF policy to allow more SLA units to set up permanent positions in critical parts of the security zone.

Israelis Impose Curfews

NC1912094089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces early today imposed a curfew on the townships of al-Habbariyah and al-Fardis which fall within the operational area of the Norwegian contingent of the United Nations Forces in Lebanon. The Israeli forces first besieged the two towns and then raided a number of houses in the towns.

Neanwhile, an Israeli MK drone flew for 2 hours over the liberated villages in eastern al-Biqa', north of the occupied region, early today.

Israeli Planes Overfly Sidon, Palestinian Camps

NC1912101189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the Palestinian camps before 1000 today, drawing antiaircraft fire.

FRC Claims Israeli Plane Hit by Fire, Downed

NC1912142989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] In a statement today, Fatah-The Revolutionary Council [FRC] announced that one of the Israeli enemy warplanes which were conducting mock raids on FRC positions east of Sidon was hit by antiaircraft weapons.

The statement said the resistance men have not been able to determine whether the aircraft crashed inside the border strip or made a forced landing in the area.

Joint YAR, PDRY Delegation Arrives on Visit

JN1612075489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Damascus—People's Democratic Republic of Yemen Minister of Transport Salih 'Abdallah Muthana and Yemen Arab Republic Minister of Transport Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih arrived last night in Damascus. They were received at Damascus International Airport by Transportation Minister Eng Yusuf al-Ahmad, the two Yemeni ambassadors in Damascus, and the assistant chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Salih 'Abdallah Muthana said: It pleases me to come with my brother Al-Wajih to convey a joint message from [YAR] President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the [PDRY] Yemeni Socialist Party, to President Hafiz al-Asad on the recent unity steps taken by the two political leaderships in the two parts of Yemen.

In another statement to SANA, Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih said: We are confident the Yemeni people and their national leadership will enjoy the support of the brothers in Syria—leadership and people—in light of the importance of this unity step, hoping the whole Arab nation will achieve unity. He added: This support likely is to be given, because Syria is among the leading Arab states in national Arab unity action.

Al-Asad Meets Ministers

JN1612205089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad at 1900 today received Salih 'Abdallah Muthana and Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, transport ministers in the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] and envoys of YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the PDRY Yemeni Socialist Party. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the YAR and PDRY ambassadors.

The two Yemeni envoys conveyed a joint message from Their Excellencies 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid to President al-Asad. The message deals with unity steps currently in progress in the two parts of Yemen.

Talks also dealt with unity, and the two Yemeni envoys explained what has been achieved in attaining it. President al-Asad expressed Syria's blessings for these steps, affirming support for this action, because Syria always has always called for Arab unity and supported any attempt at it.

Make Statement, Depart

JN1812171589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Damascus—Salih 'Abdallah Muthana, minister of transport in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], and Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, minister of transport in the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], left Damascus this morning after a visit to Syria lasting several days. Salih 'Abdallah Muthana and Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih told a SANA correspondent that in receiving them, President Hafiz al-Asad stressed the need to establish and reinforce unity between the two parts of Yemen.

Syrian Flight to Cairo Returns to Damascus

JN1412205689 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] The Syrian Boeing 727 returned to Damascus last night from Cairo airport after the first Syrian commercial flight in the wake of the resumption of air traffic between the two fraternal countries.

The Boeing 727 carried on board an official delegation from the Ministry of Transport and the Syrian Arab Civil Aviation Authority headed by Munir Jayrudi, assistant minister of transport for civil aviation affairs. Six other passengers were on board. A media team also was on this flight.

The delegation was accorded a tumultuous official and popular reception at Cairo airport, during which the people chanted slogans on the ties of brotherhood and the united destiny of the Arab people in the two fraternal countries.

Muhyi al-Din 'Abd-al-Latif, chairman of the transport and communications affairs committee in the Egyptian People's Assembly; Engineer Muhammad Fahim Rayyan, Egypt Air chairman; Major General Samir Rashad, assistant minister of the Egyptian Transport Ministry for civil aviation affairs; and senior Egypt Air officials were at the head of those who welcomed the Syrian plane.

This step comes as part of contacts between the two political leaderships in Damascus and Cairo to resume flights between the two capitals in a manner that will serve joint fraternal and pan-Arab ties.

Commentary Notes Need for Strong Egyptian Ties

JN1712155089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Past and modern experience has proven links between the two Arab peoples in Syria and Egypt are stronger than all crises and plots that anti-Arab circles have hatched to divide the countries of the Arab nation, aiming to weaken and fragment its capabilities. In this manner, foreign forces can carry out their hostile schemes and divide the nation into separate, isolated forces that easily can be overpowered, conquered, and prevented from uniting their formidable material and human resources.

Evidence from both remote and recent history prove the meeting of Syria and Egypt always has been a sine qua non for the Arabs to achieve their victories against their enemies. This has been the case since the era of Salah al-Din and up to the glorious October war of liberation, and going through the first Arab unity in modern history. The meeting of these two countries is an absolute necessity to confront the challenges of the grave stage through which our Arab nation is passing. They are great challenges that require the mobilization of all Arab resources to foil Zionist plots against the nation.

Al-Asad's Syria always has called for effective Arab solidarity among the countries of the nation, because it realized through its level, strategic vision such solidarity is the sharpest weapon in the hand of the Arab nation through which to confront the Zionist colonialistic plot—the plot that usurped Arab Palestine, seeks to achieve its Torah dream of establishing Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates, and aspires through force, terrorism, and plotting to impose its hegemony on all the capabilities of the Arab nation.

Thus, Arab Syria was and still is anxious for Arab solidarity, which proved useful and effective during the October war of liberation. Since the war, therefore, imperialist circles began to launch a series of conspiratory campaigns to foil Arab solidarity and divide the countries and capabilities of the nation.

The gambling of the enemy of our nation focused primarily on achieving the estrangement between Egypt and its Arab nation, especially between Egypt and Syria. Arab Syria, however, under struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, carried the banner, confronted the plots, and turned into a fortress of Arab steadfastness. It never deviated from its militant pan-Arab line; it continued, under all circumstances of our Arab nation, to call for Arab unity and solidarity in order to serve the higher pan-Arab interests. Syria endeavored to mobilize all resources to launch the fateful battle against the Zionist enemy to establish a just and comprehensive peace based on the liberation of all occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the usurped rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

Arab Syria always has known how to make the wagers of our nation's enemies losing ones. In all its steps, it proceeds from a firm pan-Arab position and serves only one purpose—the interests of the Arab nation. Syria's meeting with any Arab country will be a factor added to the strength of the Arab nation to achieve its legitimate goals. It certainly is a big step toward achieving Arab solidarity aspired by the Arab masses at this stage, which is witnessing the birth of major alliances, and requires a unified Arab position so the Arab nation can be strong, with a loud voice and respectable status in today's world.

Reportage on Need To Remove 'Awn From Lebanon

Called 'Urgent Demand'

JN1912101489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 19 Dec 89

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Liqidation of the Mutiny Phenomenon is an Urgent Demand," AL-BA'TH says: The phenomenon of Michel 'Awn as the entire world understands it no longer is merely a threat to the area which he holds by force of arms, threatning not only the security of the citizen and the homeland, but also the security of Lebanon and the Lebanese. This threat also bodes a disastrous outcome, bills of which the Lebanese no longer can afford to pay after what they have paid already in blood, destruction, and ruin. For all these reasons, the liquidation of this anomalous phenomenon has become an urgent demand for which all efforts should be mobilized and all endeavors intensified to save Lebanon from its long-lived ordeal.

On the same topic, the newspaper TISHRIN says: With the diplomatic efforts the Lebanese legitimacy currently is undertaking and the legal measures the government is carrying out, also comes efforts exerted by the national forces to crown the activities aimed at eliminating 'Awn, who is viewed as the only obstacle threatening national accord and preventing implementation of the al- Ta'if agreement. This agreement has been considered a new national charter that laid the foundations of the needed political reform meant to achieve justice, equality in rights and duties, and equal opportunities among all the Lebanese parties.

If the activities of the national accord government aim at regaining the unity of Lebanon—land, people, and institutions—'Awn's activities, on the other hand, aim at propagating his suicidal project in a manner that includes not only the political and military aspect, but extends to the economic aspect as well. This was revealed yesterday by the East Beirut businessmen who began abandoning 'Awn after they realized the reality and dimensions of the project he wants them to follow. They have realized 'Awn's idiotic methods and his light-headedness, which induce him to take oppressive moves against the institutions to force them to pay taxes, fees, and protection money, eventually will force them to leave the country or go bankrupt. This reflects in both cases a desire to evacuate the country, even to destroy it after 'Awn has felt there is no place for him in the secure Lebanon which looks confidently toward its future. Thus, while the Lebanese legitimacy is leading the country toward more unity and accord, 'Awn is driving everyone to perdition. In such a situation, everyone should support legitimacy and stand in the face of the activities of fragmentation and ruin to uphold the banner of the free, united, and Arab Lebanon.

Lebanese Want 'Downfall'

JN1812103689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Dec 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Lebanon Will End the Anomalous Situation," AL-BA'TH says: The overwhelming majority of the international community has affirmed its support for the Lebanese legitimacy and expressed its desire to see Lebanon recover and begin the march of salvation, accord, and reconstruction based on democracy, justice, and equality—crystallized in the al-Ta'if document.

AL-BA'TH adds: This worldwide desire is in harmony with the atmosphere of accord and detente that for the past 2 years has permeated the world. This atmosphere can be reinforced only by exterminating the hotbeds of tension and the world's war-ridden areas.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: Proceeding from the foregoing facts, and out of its concern to save Lebanon, put an end to its tragedy, and eliminate all obstacles preventing the Lebanese from looking forward to security and peace, the Lebanese Government has begun a series of moves aimed at reinstating its power over all the territories of the homeland and ending the anomalous partitionist situation created by the rebel General Michel 'Awn. In doing so, the Lebanese Government not only is armed with its legitimacy and Arab and international support, but also with overwhelming popular support.

AL-BA'TH adds: The 'Awn phenomenon—which constitutes a unique anomalous situation where he stands flinging the gauntlet in the face of the Lebanese and the entire world, affirming he will not hesitate to destroy Lebanon and kill all the Lebanese to peddle the partitionist conspiracy and strengthen sectarianism—would not have emerged had it not been for the support 'Awn received from parties whose stands are known and whose objectives are exposed. With the support of these few parties, 'Awn might be able to obstruct the march of salvation and inflict more tragedies on the Lebanese. This obstruction, however, is transitory. The Lebanese, with the help of their legitimate authority, Arab support in general, and Syrian support in particular, are determined to achieve the downfall of 'Awn and what he represents. In the end, only united, independent, and Arab Lebanon will triumph.

Should Use World Support

JN1812162089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] It is crystal clear the Iraqi regime and some other international parties are trying to hamper current efforts to achieve an accord in Lebanon. The Baghdad tyrant insists on extending assistance to 'Awn and his rebel clique. Moreover, he believes partitioning Lebanon into warring sectarian statelets will crown his mad war, which is designed to split up the Arabs and disctract them with disputes that waste their capabilities and make their pan-Arab aspirations go astray. What is also grave is the Baghdad tyrant plans to destroy the national and pan-Arab awareness to fan the flames of sectarian and regional conflicts, and to set fires that can cover his detestable crimes against the Arabs and Muslims.

Similarly, some international parties, which could play a certain role in pressuring the mutinous general, also call for self-restraint—a call that encourages the rebels to defy the legitimate authority and the Lebanese people's will. This is clear in 'Awn's recent attack against the Lebanese deputies and figures and in his feverish endeavor to entrench the separatist trends in the eastern sector by drawing up and organizing plans and projects, imposing taxes on the citizens who are suffering from the nightmare of terrorism, and trying to hold what he calls elections. By this, he wants to entrench the state of separation.

Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi has explained the legitimate Lebanese authority has no alternative than to take necessary measures to confront rebellion and disobedience. But the rebel clique is using the students of the eastern sector as a shield in front of the B'abda Palace to imply they represent the Christian brothers, and that the very existence and interests of the Christian sect are still threatened, although the brothers in the eastern sector are looking forward to the day when they liberate themselves from tyranny and join their brothers in the western sector to build a new Lebanon under the banner of legitimacy and a safe and stable Lebanon in which manifestations of fear and repression are renounced.

For its part, Israel is trying to market 'Awn's proposals through its international channels and Zionist organizations, at a time when it extends direct assistance to him and promises him it will go on with its assistance if he continues to rebel against the legitimate authority and goes ahead with his partitioning and Cypriotization plans.

It is natural these plans will not work due to the Lebanese people's will and determination. 'Awn is leading the Lebanese, especially those under his control, to mass suicide. His goals lack the sound bases of life and continuation, although the al-Ta'if agreement has not turned the Lebanese map upside down. In fact, some say it has resulted in more balance.

Christians know there is no future for anyone outside the framework of Lebanon's unity—land and people—and also outside the framework of coexistence with other people. The legitimate forces hence are urged to use sweeping Lebanese, Arab, and international support to restore justice, especially since they spared no effort to find a peaceful solution and avoid bloodshed. 'Awn alone must be responsible for what may happen, because he is the only person who violates the law and legitimacy and the only one to abduct East Beirut and obstruct the Lebanese people's unity, safety, and security through his disobedience.

OPEC Official Arrives in Damascus for Talks

JN1512205589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] OPEC Fund Director (Sid 'Abdallah) arrived in Damascus tonight at the head of a delegation visiting Syria. During the visit he will conduct economic talks with senior Syrian officials. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and a number of senior ministry officials.

Customs Authorities Confiscate 400 kg of Hashish

JN1812134889 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0735 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Damascus, 18 Dec (SANA)—Customs authorities at dawn yesterday confiscated 400 kg of hashish on the Homs-Damascus highway in al-Qastal area. It is valued at 2.5 million Syrian pounds.

A source at the Customs Authority Affairs Directorate told an AL-BA'TH reporter a Customs Authority patrol managed to confiscate the hashish from a smuggled car carrying forged license plates. The source indicated the hashish came from Lebanon to be smuggled outside the country through Syria.

India

Lok Sabha Session Begins; Members Sworn In

BK1812091489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Excerpts] The ninth Lok Sabha began its first sitting this morning with the swearing-in of the newly elected members now under way. The prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, was the first to take oath, followed by the deputy prime minister, Mr Devi Lal, and other cabinet ministers. Mr V.P. Singh, who took his oath in Hindi, was lustily cheered by members from both sides. Immediately after being administered the oath of office by the pro tem speaker, Professor N.G.Ranga, Mr Singh walked up to the leader of the opposition, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and shook hands with him. Mr Gandhi, who took oath following the cabinet ministers, also received applause from all sections. The ministers of state were called next, followed by the panel of chairmen. While the minister of state for water resources, Mr Manobhai Kotadiya, took oath on his turn, the lone woman minister in the new government, Mrs Maneka Gandhi, joined in some time later. Members are since being sworn in alphabetical order of their states. [passage omitted]

Mr Rabi Ray of the Janata Dal is to be the new Lok Sabha speaker. The ruling National Front sponsored the name of Mr Ray for the prestigious office. Our correspondent understands that Mr Ray's name has been proposed after a broad consensus reached on his candidature among various parties, including the opposition Congress-I, in the house. Mr Ray is expected to be chosen unanimously in the election for the speaker's post scheduled for tomorrow.

Congress-I: No Consultation on Speaker

BK1812160189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Mr Rabi Ray of Janata Dal is likely to be elected the speaker of the ninth Lok Sabha tomorrow. According to the ruling National Front sources, Mr Ray's was the only nomination to be filed before the expiry of the deadline for the purpose today. The front sources also said that consultations were held with all political parties, including the Congress-I, before deciding the candidate for tomorrow's election.

The opposition Congress-I has, however, refuted the claim that it was consulted on the nomination of Mr Ray for the speaker's post. In a statement, the chief whip of the party, Mr Brahma Dutta, said though the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr Upendra, had assured them of prior consultation, it was not done. Instead, Mr Upendra informed Mr Rajiv Gandhi of the decision to field Mr Ray this morning.

The statement accused the Janata Dal of having opted for confrontation and misadventure. The statement said while the Congress-I would still offer constructive cooperation to the new government, it will refuse to be ignored, being the single largest party in both houses of parliament.

New Lok Sabha Speaker Elected

BK1912093089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Mr Rabi Ray took over as the speaker of the new Lok Sabha after being elected unanimously. The deputy prime minister, Mr Devi Lal, proposed Mr Ray's name for the speaker of the house. The motion was seconded by Mr Manobhai Kotadiya. Another motion was moved by Mr Sharad Yadav and seconded by Mr George Fernandes. A third motion was moved by Mr Indrajit Gupta and seconded by Mr Amar Roy Pradhan. Mr Devi Lal's motion was adopted by the house unanimously.

As the pro tem speaker, Professor N.G. Ranga announced the election of Mr Ray. The prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, and the leader of the opposition, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, went over to Mr Ray's seat and led him to the speaker's podium.

Leaders of various political parties, including Mr Somnath Chatterjee, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist]; Mrs Vijay Raje Scindia, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]; Mr Indrajit Gupta, CPI; and the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr P. Upendra, also accompanied the newly elected speaker.

Congratulating Mr Ray, the prime minister said that there is a new effort for unanimity, and as a first step the speaker was elected unanimously. He expressed the hope that Mr Ray's long experience in public life and as a parliamentarian will be of great strength to him in his new office.

Extending the Congress-I's full cooperation to the new speaker, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that his party had a small complaint. He said his party was told that it would be consulted on the nomination of the speaker, but just 6 minutes before the deadline it was informed of Mr Ray's name. Mr Gandhi pointed out that while the treasury benches decided to make it a unilateral decision, the Congress-I has made it unanimous. He hastened to add that his party has full faith in the new speaker and will look up to him as a custodian of the people's rights.

The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr P. Upendra, however, disputed the contention of Mr Gandhi. Mr Upendra said that he had contacted the leader of the opposition on two occasions earlier broaching the subject. On the first, he had mentioned two or three names for the office under the National Front's consideration. On the second occasion, Mr Upendra said, he had specifically asked Mr Gandhi if he had any other name. As there was no response, it was presumed that the opposition had no objection to the names proposed earlier. Mr Upendra pointed out that the government observed propriety of informing the opposition leader before a decision was taken. He said the government will take the leader of the opposition into confidence on all important matters in future.

Leaders of various political parties and groups in the house felicitated Mr Ray on his unanimous choice. Offering their fullest cooperation, they expressed the hope that the rights and privileges of members will be safeguarded under Mr Ray's speakership.

Thanking the members for unanimously electing his as the speaker, Mr Rabi Ray said that he will perform his duty with humility, rising above all party politics.

Later, the new speaker adjourned the house for the day.

Sri Lankan Tamil Groups Arrive for Madras Talks

BK1512050889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Representatives of various Sri Lankan Tamil militant organizations are reaching Madras to have discussions with the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr Karunanidhi, to discuss a solution to the island's ethnic problem. A high-level LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] delegation headed by [LTTE political adviser] Mr A.S. Balasingham is expected to hold discussions with the chief minister today. The delegation is arriving at the invitation of Mr Karunanidhi. The EPRLF's [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] middle-level representatives will also hold discussions in Madras and will seek an appointment with the chief minister.

TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] leader Mr Selvam has arrived at Rameswaram and has welcomed the holding of discussions to sort out the ethnic issue. The TELO is also waiting for a call from the chief minister for discussions.

The fresh initiative to find an acceptable solution of the island's ethnic problem followed two rounds of talks Mr Karunanidhi had with the prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

Tamil Nadu Chief, LTTE Meet

BK1612113889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] The talks between the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr Karunanidhi, and LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] representatives will continue for the 2d day today in Madras on restoration of peace and security for Sri Lankan Tamils in the Northeastern Province. The union urban development minister, Mr Murasoli Maran, is expected to join the talks.

During their talks yesterday, the LTTE representatives, Mr A. Balasingham, Mr Yogi, and two others, apprised Mr Karunanidhi about their stand on the present situation in the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka. Mr Karunanidhi will hold similar discussions with other Sri Lankan Tamil organizations.

Meanwhile, the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization [TELO] has welcomed the talks between Mr Karunanidhi and the LTTE leaders. The TELO leader, Mr Selvam, said in Rameswaram that a solution to the Tamil problem depends on the LTTE joining the political mainstream.

Tamil Nadu Chief Views Talks

BK1612162089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M. Karunanidhi, today expressed satisfaction over his discussion with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] delegation in Madras on all issues relating to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka's Northeastern Province. He said both sides were satisfied with the talks.

Talking to newsmen in Madras after the 3-hour discussion today with the LTTE leaders, Mr Anton Balasingham and Mr Yogi, the chief minister expressed the hope that all problems relating to the island's ethnic issue can be solved amicably. He said a summary of the discussion will be placed before the prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, in a day or 2 in person and suitable measures taken to implement the decision. The gamut of talks centered round permanent peace in Tamil areas and the security of life and property of people of the area.

The Tamil National Council, comprising the TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization], the ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front], and the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], has welcomed the initiative of the Tamil Nadu chief minister and the union government in trying to solve the ethnic issue. In a statement in Colombo, these organizations offered full cooperation. The Tamil National Council also warned that there will be genocide in Sri Lanka if India pulls out its troops without ensuring safety and security of the Tamil people.

Kashmir Chief, Prime Minister Hold Discussions

BK1712163389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, today held discussions with the prime minister in New Delhi over the law and order situation in the state. In his hour-long meeting, Dr Abdullah apprised Mr V.P. Singh of the steps taken by the state government to meet the challenge of antinational elements. The chief minister who came to Delhi on Friday [15 December] evening had already held two rounds of talks with the home minister.

Meanwhile, Army patrolling is continuing in the curfew-bound Srinagar, Baramula, Sopor, Anantnag, and Shupiyan towns in Jammu and Kashmir. Police and paramilitary forces today combed some areas of Srinagar and seized arms and ammunition. Some arrests have been made.

An official spokesman told AIR [All India Radio] Srinagar correspondent that barring one incident of an attempt to set ablaze the Life Insurance Corporation office in (Bargaun), the overall situation is stated to be generally peaceful and under control.

Forces Launch Manhunt for Kashmir 'Militants'

BK1612094889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0928 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Srinagar, India, Dec 16 (AFP)—Paramilitary and army troopers Saturday [16 December] launched operations to smash Moslem militant strongholds in northern Kashmir state where three days of unprecedented street violence have left hundreds injured.

Federal riot troopers backed by the military were searching for illegal arms depots after setting traps to ambush militants in curfew-bound Kashmir, police officials said in Srinagar, the state's summer capital.

More than 1,000 suspected Moslem militants have so far been arrested in the first phase of operations launched Friday when authorities imposed an indefinite curfew in 14 towns to curb the sweeping violence, they said.

Seven people have died and 15 have been wounded in police firings since Thursday after violence erupted in this once-quiet Himalayan resort. Hundreds others including policemen were also reported injured.

But mobs of looters and Moslem militant sympathisers Saturday continued to prowl the streets and hurled rocks and bombs at troopers now patrolling the towns in armoured cars and military combat vehicles, witnesses here said.

Police armed with canes and shields also fought rioters in Srinagar City after three of their vehicles were damaged in stone throwing, officials said, adding that at least 13 people were injured in Saturday's clashes.

The army moved into Srinagar and two adjacent cities Friday while units of paramilitary troopers including India's elite border guards fanned out across the valley's six districts spanning the 11 other towns.

Fresh reinforcements of troops were also rushed late Friday to the worst-hit areas of the valley where the curfew was relaxed for two hours Saturday to allow people to stock food supplies and visit hospitals, the officials said.

The cities of Srinagar, Anantnag, Sopor, Shupiyan and Baramula have been described as the worst affected in the violence so far.

Trouble flared in Kashmir on Thursday after jubilant Moslems said they would observe Friday as "victory day" to celebrate Wednesday's swap of five militants for the daughter of Indian Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, abducted December 8. The abduction of Rubiya Sayeed, 22, by Jammu and Kashmir National Liberation Front militants plunged India's new government into its first major crisis.

Home Minister Discusses Jammu, Kashmir Situation

BK1812092889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] The home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, has said that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has to be tackled at the political and administrative levels. There is also a need to remove discontentment among the people through economic measures. Speaking to our correspondents in New Delhi today, he said the Center has assured the chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, of a helping hand in dealing with the situation. He observed that the people of the state should be motivated to join the national mainstream.

Replying to a question, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed said there is no proposal now to convene an all-party meeting on Kashmir. He felt that the present coalition government in the state should continue. It should work for restoring confidence among the people.

Prime Minister Singh Convenes Meeting on Punjab

Akali Dal-Badal Not Attending

BK1612132889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] The Akali Dal-Badal is not attending the all-party meeting on Punjab convened by the prime minister in New Delhi tomorrow. This was stated to newsmen in Chandigarh today by the senior party leader and former Punjab chief minister, Mr Prakash Singh Badal. He, however, made it clear that the absence of the party at the meeting should not be taken as a boycott.

Akali Dal Factions 'To Stay Away'

BK1712090589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] The all-party meeting on Punjab is being held in New Delhi today. The meeting, convened by the Cabinet Committee, aims at evolving a national consensus for a political solution of the Punjab problem. The prime minister, Mr Viswanath Pratap Singh, will preside over it. However, two of the major factions of the Akali Dal have decided to stay away. The Akali Dals headed by S.S. Mann and Mr Prakash Singh Badal would not attend the meeting, while Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, the president of the Akali Dal-Longowal, has already reached New Delhi for the meeting.

Both the Akali Dal factions not attending the meeting have made it clear that before trying to evolve a national consensus, the government should create a congenial atmosphere for negotiations. Appreciating the eagerness of the government to find a solution to the Punjab problem, Mr Badal said in Chandigarh that the absence of his party at the all-party meeting should not be taken as a boycott. He said his party wants to cooperate with the government in resolving the problem, but before that, a suitable atmosphere needs to be created for holding such dialogues. Mr Badal listed six steps which, he said, the government should take immediately. They include declaration of general amnesty for all Sikhs, action against guilty of the 1984 riots, rehabilitation of aggrieved families, and a high-level inquiry into police excesses during president's rule in Punjab. Mr Badal, however, appealed to all the Akali factions and Sikh organizations to submit a joint memorandum listing their demands for solving the Punjab problem. The Akali Dal-Mann has listed eight conditions to create a conducive atmosphere for negotiations.

The Akali Dal-Longowal president, Mr Surjit Singh Badal, appreciated the move by the National Front government to solve the problem and said: We will attend the meeting.

The government held informal consultations yesterday with the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP], the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], and the CPI [Communist Party of India] as a prelude to the all-party meeting. The consultations were aimed at formulating a joint approach to the Punjab problem.

The Center was represented among others by the prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh; the deputy prime minister, Mr Devi Lal, and the home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed. The BJP leaders, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee and Mr L.K. Advani, Mr Harkrishan Sing Surjit of CPI-M, and Mr Satpal Dang of CPI were the other participants to thrash out a universally acceptable solution on Punjab.

Statement Issued

BK1712162589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Excerpts] The first all-party meeting on Punjab, convened by the new government at the Center, has called for a fresh approach to solve the state's problem on a lasting basis. In a broad consensus statement issued at the end of the meeting in New Delhi this evening, the leaders pointed out that the opportunity has now come our way and it must be seized by all concerned with sincerity and sagacity. The leaders who participated in the discussions were of the view that all problems in Punjab need to be resolved within the framework of the Constitution and without compromising the unity and integrity of the country.

The meeting specifically recommended the repeal of the 59th amendment of the Constitution. The amendment, which was passed by Parliament last year, empowered the government to impose emergency in the whole or part of Punjab on the ground of internal disturbances. It also empowered the government to issue a presidential proclamation to extend imposition of central rule in Punjab if necessary up to a period of 3 years.

It urged the government to take effective and expeditious steps to secure the conviction of those guilty of large-scale tragic and reprehensible acts of violence in 1984.

The leaders also underlined the critical importance of toning up the administration in Punjab, especially the working of law enforcement agencies. They strongly condemned the continued killings of the innocent. The statement says that these senseless acts of violence are against the teachings of the great sages. The people must be reassured there would no let up in the fight against terrorism.

While appreciating the prime minister's visit to Amritsar, the leaders said that the first and foremost need of the hour is to create a climate of confidence among all sections of the people in the state. They said that justice for all and discrimination against none should be the cornerstone of the national effort.

Over 50 leaders of different political parties participated in the meeting convened by the home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, to evolve a national consensus for a political solution of the Punjab problem. The meeting, which lasted for 4 and ½ hours, was presided over by the prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh. [passage omitted]

Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, Congress-I, was of the view that the statement cannot be called a consensus document since his party had no hand in drafting it. However, the prime minister said that we endorse whatever is contained in the statement.

Those who attended the meeting from the government side included the prime minister, the deputy prime minister, the union ministers, Mr George Fernandes, Mr P. Upendra and Mr K.P. Unnikrishnan. Among the leaders of various political parties who participated in the deliberations were Mr Buta Singh, Mr Chidambaram, both Congress-I; Mr A.B. Vajpayee, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]; Dr Subramaniam Swamy, Janata Party, JP; Mr Saifuddin Soz, National Conference; Mr Chitta Basu, Forward Bloc; Mr Nagen Hokea Asom Gano Parishad, Mr Samar Mukherjee, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist]; Mr P. Tidke, RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party]; Mr Inderjit Gupta, CPI [Communist Party of India]; Mr G. Swaminathan, AIADMK [All India Dravida Munnetra Kazagham]; Mr P.T. Kuritinan, DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazagham]; and Mr Krishna Kant, Janata Dal.

The Congress-I has said that the National Front government has not spelt out its position on basic issues relating to Punjab in the draft paper circulated at the all-party meeting. The party said the issues include reassertion of the Anandpur Saheb resolution [containing Sikh demands] and the renewed demand for the so-called Khalistan. Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, who led the Congress-I delegation to the meeting, told newsmen that his party attended the meeting fully prepared for a meaningful discussion, but was disappointed at the way it was conducted. He regretted that the Congress-I was not consulted in the preparation of the draft paper, which the government said has been endorsed by it. Mr Rao said the Congress-I is willing to participate in an all-party meeting for free and frank discussions for a meaningful national consensus.

'Fresh Approach' Sought

BK1712125489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] The all-party meeting on Punjab has called for a fresh approach to solve the Punjab problem on an enduring basis. In a statement issued at the end of the meeting in New Delhi a short while ago, it expressed the unanimous determination of the nation that the agony of Punjab must be ended expeditiously.

The meeting was convened by the home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, to evolve a national consensus for a political solution of the Punjab problem. It was presided over by the prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh. Two major factions of the Akali Dal led by Mr S.S. Mann and Mr Prakash Singh Badal have stayed away from the meeting, while the president of the Akali Dal-Longowal group, Mr S.S. Barnala, participated. Among others, the governor of Punjab, Mr N.K. Mukherjee, was also present.

The prime minister in his brief address to the meeting said that a conducive atmosphere is necessary to solve the Punjab problem and the government wants to proceed step by step. He said this process may be slow, but the solution will be lasting. Mr V.P. Singh declared that the Government will not compromise on national integrity or the security of human lives. He said Punjab is one of the issues on which the Government wants a national dialogue, and all parties should associate themselves in finding a solution to the problem. The people of Punjab and youth in particular should be associated with the peace process in the state, the prime minister added.

The home minister in his opening remarks said the government is keen that a political initiative is taken to restore confidence among the people, but nothing should be done that may demoralize the administrative and law and order machinery.

Parties Criticize Congress-I

BK1812064689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Excerpt] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], CPI [Communist Party of India], and CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] have criticized the stand taken by the Congress-I to dissociate itself from the broad consensus statement arrived at yesterday's all-party meeting on Punjab.

The BJP general secretary, Mr K.L. Sharma, told newsmen in New Delhi that it is unfortunate that the Congress-I has adopted an attitude of confrontation which belies its earlier statement that they would play the role of a constructive opposition.

The CPI-M spokesman said the Congress-I stands isolated by its action.

The CPI secretariat in a statement regretted that the Congress-I by raising technical points of procedure used obstructive tactics which can only encourage those who want to continue the stalemate in Punjab. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister on Dialogue

BK1812070689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has said that the Center will now interact with the different political parties as a follow-up of the broad consensus reached yesterday at the all-party meeting to resolve the Punjab problem.

In an informal chat with newsmen soon after the swearing-in ceremony of the new chief justice at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] this morning, Mr V.P. Singh said that he would again try to persuade the Congress-I to join the effort to evolve a consensus on the Punjab problem. It may be recalled that the Congress-I had yesterday dissociated itself with the statement issued at the end of the all-party meeting, stating that it was not involved at the drafting stage.

Replying to a question, the prime minister said that the government would take initiative for a dialogue with the Akali Da-Mann and Badal groups.

About the judicial reforms, the prime minister said that it is high on the government's agenda. The Law Ministry has been asked to work out the package of reforms, including a fresh look at the Official Secrets Act.

On the induction of Professor M.G.K. Menon into the union council of ministers, the prime minister said that the scientists will have a better approach for the country's scientific priorities.

Government, 'All Parties' To Talk

BK1812092289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] The deputy prime minister, Mr Devi Lal, has said that the Center will hold talks with all political parties to arrive at an amicable solution of the Punjab problem. Replying to questions at a meet-the-press program in

Chandigarh this morning, he however made it clear that the government will not hold negotiations with anyone putting in preconditions.

Mr Devi Lal said a decision regarding holding assembly elections in Punjab along with other state assemblies will be taken after assessing the conditions prevailing in the state at that time.

Singh Rules Out Government 'Surrender' in Punjab

BK1912090689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] The prime minister has ruled out any surrender by the government to separatists and secessionist forces in Punjab. Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, however, said that a sense of justice needs to be provided to the people in the state.

Addressing the first meeting of the National Front parliamentary party in New Delhi this morning, V.P. Singh said the real task in Punjab is to unite the hearts. He said though there are difficulties in finding a solution to the complex problem, a good beginning has been made. In this context, he welcomed the response of Akali Dal-Mann to the initiatives taken by the government.

Tanzanian President Stops Over on Way to Japan

BK1612105589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] The Tanzanian president, Mr Ali Hassan Mwinyi, arrived in New Delhi today on a brief visit. He was received at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujaral, and senior officials.

Talking to newsmen, the Tanzanian president said he will exchange views with the prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, on several issues, particularly the situation in southern Africa. Mr Mwinyi said India has always been an ally of the frontline states in their struggle against apartheid. He expressed confidence that Indian support will continue until apartheid is dismantled.

The prime minister is hosting a lunch in Mr Mwinyi's honor. The talks between the two delegations are scheduled in the evening.

After his brief halt, the Tanzanian president will leave for Japan tonight.

Prime Minister Hosts Lunch

BK1612130289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] India has called for early negotiations to dismantle apartheid and establish a united, democratic, and nonracial South Africa. The call was given by the prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, at a lunch hosted by him in New Delhi today in honor of the Tanzanian president, Mr Ali Hassan Mwinyi, who is in the capital on a brief stopover.

Mr Singh also emphasized that moral and material support have to be extended to Namibia, which is trying to consolidate its new-earned freedom.

Dalai Lama Returns, Sees Hope for Tibet Struggle

BK1712133889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1322 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 17 (AFP)—The Dalai Lama returned to his home in exile here Sunday after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, saying he saw hope for his struggle to free Tibet in the changes sweeping East Europe.

"Rigid systems are against human nature, they cannot work," the Tibetan spiritual leader told several thousand academics, Buddhists, Hindus, Moslems, Bahais and Sikhs who gathered at a hall in the Indian capital to welcome him.

He said in the 1960s and 1970s he had been called "idealistic" and "unrealistic" in his hopes for Tibetan freedom from China, but that now with the changes from "the Philippines to Prague, Chile and Africa," he had every reason to be hopeful.

"Tibetan determination never died," he said, adding that although China had sent 7.5 million people to Tibet, outnumbering the six million Tibetans, "it is not too late."

The Dalai Lama, who toured East Europe and met with some of the new leaders there on his way to receive the prize in Oslo, was handed a message relayed from Czechoslovak leader Vaclas Havel expressing the hope that "Tibet will finally meet the same peaceful way to freedom."

In an apparent reference to his offer to the Chinese Government that Beijing handle external affairs and defence in return for true Tibetan autonomy, he said "when desperate, there is no time to pretend. You have to accept reality."

Members of his staff said the Dalai Lama would fly directly from Delhi to Dharamsala, the headquarters for some 100,000 Tibetan exiles in India.

Accorded Civic Reception

BK1812051989 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] A civic reception was held in New Delhi this evening to felicitate the Tibetan spiritual leader, the dalai lama, on his being awarded this year's Nobel Prize for peace. It was organized by an institution called the Peace Initiative, represented by 25 religious, cultural, and public bodies. A citation was presented to the dalai lama by Swami Gokulananda of the Ramakrishna Mission on the occasion.

The dalai lama in his speech called for a universal humanitarian approach toward problems and said that this is the only sound base for peace. He said Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence had taught and inspired him a great deal.

Iran

Majlis By-Election Results Announced

LD1912101889 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] The country's election headquarters has announced: Having counted the ballots cast in all the polling stations in the electoral constituency of Tehran, Rey, and Shemiran, from a total of 661,487 votes, Movahhedi-Kermani, with 287,921, and 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, with 225,570 votes, obtained a majority in the first round. Maryam Behruzi, with 219,921 votes, Asgar-Owladi, with 216,656 votes, Sarhadizadeh, with 184,386 votes, and Morteza Nabavi, with 172,287 votes, will go to the second round of the Majlis by-elections.

The country's election headquarters also has announced the results of the ballot count for the Majlis by-elections in Karaj, Kerman, Kashan, Kuhdasht, and Kordkuy as follows: In the electoral constituency of Karaj, Mr Zali, with 45,401 votes from a total of 101,944 votes; in the electoral constitutency of Kerman, Mr 'Asadollah Razavi, with 29,032 votes from a total of 59,508 votes; in the electoral constituency of Kashan, Mr Mahmud Jamali, with 48,516 votes from a total of 97,652 votes; and in the electoral constituency of Kuhdasht and Chegini, Mr 'Ali Shahrokhi, with 37,792 from a total of 73,167 votes, obtained a majority and will go to the Majlis.

In the electoral constituency of Kordkuy and Bandar-e Torkaman, Messrs Mohammad Baqer and Yusef Basanjideh obtained 18,196 votes and 16,192 votes respectively from a total of 68,568 votes, and the by-election in that constituency will therefore go to the second round.

Midterm Elections Assessed

LD1812180789 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Dear listeners: The embarrassing midterm elections of the Islamic Consultative Assembly—Majlis—the results of which were announced yesterday, clearly demonstrate, once again, the realities of the all-pervasive crisis which the regime is caught up in. First, people failed to show enthusiasm and the required ceiling for the votes did not even reach 700,000 in Tehran, Rey, and Shemiran, bringing out the anti-democratic nature of such elections which are better called the regime's charades. In truth, this was the maximum number that the regime's personnel and the variety of camps within the regime were able to drag to the ballot boxes and organize their (?supporters) to advance their own sectarian objectives. Even though the propaganda machinery of the Islamic Republic endeavored to link the reason for the lack of people's participation with issues such as heavy rainfalls and the fact that the elections were only midterm elections, and such things, these (?kinds of excuses) are, more than anything, (?aimed at deceiving people) and are only election charades.

The second point is the expectations and (?overoptimism) of the rulers with regards to this pantomime they put on display. The regime's factions and camps did not succeed in the course of this election race to even determine the fate of four seats in Tehran, and except for two persons who gained the necessary number of votes, the rest of the candidates had to be transferred to the second round of elections. This too, is, on the one hand, the outcome of the intensification of the political crisis of the regime and the battle over power between the chief factions, and on the other, disagreements and distractions even within each of the factions which prevents them from concentrating their votes on a number of selected candidates.

We will be clearer and say that the inherent crisis in the rule of the Islamic Republic is such that the chief factions of the regime do not have the power to eliminate or absorb one another. In many cases they are weary of even minimal compromises. The embarrassment of the Election Supervisory Committee's rejection of Behzad Nabavi as a candidate, and especially the Guardian Council's confirmation, is a blatant example of this reality.

In this connection, Musavi-Kho'iniha, in an interview with KEYHAN given as a protest to the rejection of Nabavi as a candidate, said: It is a mistake if any of us imagines that since, outwardly, some people have important posts (?they also have the power to dissolve the other current). This is a mistake. You should also know that no (?person or group) has the power to have everyone's solid support behind them.

The other point about Friday's election charade is that gaining seats in the Majlis plays a very sensitive role in the regime's factional bickerings and the increase or decrease in the number of pawns. In particular, the influential pawns of each faction can have a serious effect on the ranks. For this same reason, the election of Mohtashami—the most influential deputy of the hardliners—at the present juncture, who, it is said, will be appointed deputy speaker, has caused serious concern in the rival faction. We believe that the Islamic Majlis will experience further intensified conflicts and tensions.

Reportage on Visit of Romania's Ceausescu

Arrives in Tehran 18 Dec

LD1812110389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] At the official invitation of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Mr Niclolae Ceausescu, the president of Romania, arrived in Tehran this afternoon at the start of a 3-day visit to our country. He was foramlly welcomed at Mehrabad Airport by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Our telephone contact with Mehrabad Airport is established and our correspondent, Ahmadzadeh, reports on the Romanian president's arrival in Tehran:

[Ahmadzadeh] Dear listeners, I am speaking to you from Tehran's Mehrabad Airport. President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania arrived in Tehran a few minutes ago at the head of a political-economic delegation. He was formally welcomed at the airport by the president, several members of the cabinet, state and military figures, foreign ambassadors, and charges d'affaires in Tehran. After his arrival, the Romanian president first inspected the special forces stationed at the airport. Later while accompanied by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, he went to the special platform. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke welcoming President Nicolae Ceausescu and his entourage to Islamic Iran.

Holds Talks With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1812174389 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] The first round of the talks between the presidents of Iran and Romania were held this afternoon. In this round of talks, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani welcomed the Romanian president and his accompanying delegation, saying: Your trip—following His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i's visit to Romania and the completion of the talks held during that trip—will be beneficial. The president added: There are many grounds for bilateral cooperation, and the experience of 10 years of cooperation, after the victory of the Islamic revolution, encourages us to expand these relations in all fields.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani asserted: Iran and Romania, bearing in mind their existing resources, can have fruitful cooperation in the industrial field, notably in petrochemicals, oil and gas, mines, agriculture, cement industries, and the export of industrial products. The president added: Cases where the two countries have had longstanding cooperation, through the joint cooperation commission, are in the process of being reviewed by experts, and fortunately these discussions have had good results thus far. In another part of his remarks the president referred to the regional and international cooperation between the two countries, saying: Cooperation between the two countries, and with other countries, can help to strengthen peace in the region and in the world.

In these talks, Mr Ceausescu, president of Romania, expressed thanks for the kind and warm hospitality he and his accompanying delegation have received in the Islamic Republic of Iran, saying: Last year we had very fruitful talks with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, who visited Romania in his position as president, and I hope that in continuation of those productive talks, we shall have good and useful discussions about the expansion of relations and international cooperation. The Romanian president, referring to the experience of bilateral relations and international cooperation, said: We believe that cooperation between the two countries could play a fine role in the preservation of independence and territorial integrity of countries. The Romanian president also declared his country's readiness to expand further mutual cooperation in the industries that the two countries are interested in, especially in the oil industry, mines, and agriculture. He said: We believe that Iran and Romania can have productive cooperation in the scientific, technical, and training fields, utilizing the best and recent innovations in sciences and techniques.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Banquet Speech

LD1812203389 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today briefed his Romanian counterpart Nicolae Ceausescu on the Islamic Republic's stands on ties with world countries as well as regional and international issues.

At a banquet in honor of President Ceausescu, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the Islamic Republic regulates its ties with other states on the basis of its "neither-East-nor-West policy, reciprocity and mutual interests."

He said the Romanian head of state during his 3-day stay here could get acquainted with parts of the achievements of the Islamic Revolution and the various strategems of global arrogance against it.

Terming the Islamic revolution a "turning point in the history of spirituality and moral values," Hashemi-Rafsanjani said "no doubt, the resistance and devotion of the Iranian people will forever remain in the annals of history."

The Romanian president, heading a high-ranking delegation, arrived today, and was given a red carpet welcome at Mehrabad International Airport. Shortly after his arrival, Ceausescu held private talks with his host Hashemi-Rafsanjani, before the two started their first round of talks.

Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, turning to Tehran-Budapest ties, described them as "ever growing" and called for exchange of political delegations in order to further strengthen reciprocal relations.

He said the state visit to Bucharest of his predecessor Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i last February was "an indication of the strong ties between the Socialist Republic of Romania and the Islamic Republic."

On the stalled U.N. mediated peace talks with Iraq's Ba'thist regime, Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that despite the U.N. chief's efforts to implement U.N. Resolution 598, Baghdad was obstructing enforcement.

As an example of Iraqi procrastination, he cited the regime's rejection of Iran's offer to exchange POWs simultaneous with the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from occupied Iranian territories.

The Islamic Republic wishes that all problems facing the troubled spots of the world especially Third World countries would be solved, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said.

However, he noted that Zionist forces were trying to stir up troubles in the Middle East so that this vital area, the intersection of three continents, would remain in perpetual crisis.

Elsewhere in his speech, he castigated plots underway to partition Lebanon, saying "it is not possible to find a solution to the Lebanese issue unless the rights of Lebanon's Muslim majority are met."

The Iranian president also voiced support for the wishes of the Afghan Muslim people to rid their country of the communist regime, and said "only an Islamic, nonaligned and independent Afghanistan could meet the legitimate rights of all regional people."

Ceausescu Addresses Banquet

NC1912074089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Speaking at a banquet held in honor of Romanian President Ceausescu, our country's president noted the longstanding cultural ties between the two countries which began in the second half of the 15th century and gained impetus following the Islamic revolution. He said:

I hope that during your visit to our country you will become acquainted with some of the great achievements of the Islamic revolution and the indefatigable struggles and resistance of our people against the numerous plots and treachery on the part of world oppression.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The grand Islamic revolution is based on the principle of neither East nor West and expresses the revolutionary wish of the nation's masses for a new political system and for establishing ties with all nations on the basis of reciprocal interests and mutual respect.

Our president continued: Undoubtedly, our revolution has brought about a change in the history of moral values and contemporary human thought which is borne out by the growing desire among nations for religious freedom.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: President Khamene'i's visit to Romania last year and Your Excellency's current visit to our country are evidence of the importance and the attention which is being given to the expansion of these ties on a high level. I am confident that the fruitful cooperation between the two countries has exceeded the confines of bilateral ties and has attained special enrichment and splendor on the international level.

Our president alluded to the Iraqi regime's obstructionism in implementing Resolution 598 and said: Unfortunately, despite his followup on UN Security Council Resolution 598, the UN secretary general could not achieve success in this regard because of Iraqi obstructionism.

Expressing his support for the people of Lebanon and occupied Palestine, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani attributed the crises in the Middle East, especially in Lebanon and occupied Palestine, to the presence of Zionist forces in this region and stressed the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the struggles of the Muslim people of Lebanon and Palestine.

In conclusion, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We are fully prepared to muster all our efforts to achieve a general solution based on justice and closing the gap between the North and the South which will eliminate backwardness and the deep division between affluent and impoverished nations and help ensure world peace.

Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, also addressed the banquet, describing his visit to Iran as an indication of the positive trend of the present relations between Iran and Romania. He said: During this visit, any obstacles to beneficial reciprocal cooperation, especially in the industrial, commercial, scientific, technical, cultural, and other fields of activity between the two countries, will be assessed.

While emphasizing the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598, the Romanian president said: All efforts must be exerted to implement Resolution 598 so that an overall solution may be sought and a comprehensive accord signed between Iran and Iraq and peace and goodneighborliness established in the region.

He added: In this regard, Romania is striving for a political solution to problems and the granting of the right of autonomy to the Palestinian people and the establishment of an independent Palestinian government. The Romanian president said: We are pleased to witness the active and developing cooperation between the two countries of Iran and Romania at the United Nations, as well as within the Nonaligned Movement and the group of developing countries. We believe that this cooperation will continue to increase at the international level for the benefit of peace and independence.

Further on Banquet Speeches

NC1912080089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Speaking at a banquet held in honor of Romanian President Ceausescu, our country's president noted the long-standing cultural ties between the two countries which began in the second half of the 15th century and gained impetus following the Islamic revolution. He said: I hope that during your visit to our country you will become acquainted with some of the great achievements of the Islamic revolution and the indefatigable struggles and resistance of our people against the numerous plots and treachery on the part of world oppression.

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Majlis Deputy Criticizes Visit

NC1912101989 Paris AFP in English 0954 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec 19 (AFP)—A member of the Iranian parliament Tuesday criticized the visit to Iran of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu warning that the situation in Romania could change dramatically.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Sadeq Khalkhali told parliament that "Mr. Ceausescu could resign, if he thinks it wise, or he could continue to lead his people.

"It is possible that the situation in Romania could be upset, but relations between the Iranian and Romanian peoples will continue."

The Romanian leader arrived here Monday to begin a three-day state visit, despite reports of violent anti-government unrest in his country during which witnesses said hundreds of people were killed over the weekend.

Mehdi Karrubi, speaker of the Iranian parliament, later asserted that Mr. Khalkhali, who represents the Shiite holy city of Qom, was expressing a "personal view" and not that of parliament.

"Our leaders are vigilant," he said, "and anyone considered a guest will always be welcome in our country."

Mr. Khalkhali also criticized Romania for "its ambiguous relations with Islamic countries and notably with Iran."

He said Romania "has enjoyed good relations with Israel, South Africa and the old regime in Iran," under the shah.

Velayati Meets SFRY Official, Address UN Assembly

LD1412095489 Tehran IRNA in English 0748 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] United Nations, Dec. 14, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, currently here, met separately with Yugoslav Presidency member Vasil Tupurkovski and Irish Minister of State in the Department of Foreign Affairs Sean Calleary Wednesday [13 December] and discussed bilateral relations, the stalled Iran-Iraq peace talks and apartheid.

Velayati and the Yugoslav senior official, in their talks, stressed the need for coordination and cooperation among the non-aligned members in the current annual meeting of the Third Committee of the U.N. General

Assembly on apartheid and racism. Both sides decided to take the necessary steps in this connection.

The two sides also reviewed expansion of bilateral relations particularly after the recent session of the joint Irano-Yugoslav commission with the Yugoslav side stressing that his country attached special importance to its relations with the Islamic Republic.

On the process of Iran-Iraq peace talks, Velayati referred to Iranian proposal of simultaneous withdrawal of Iraqi forces from the occupied Iranian territories and exchange of prisoners of war. He urged the Security Council members, Yugoslavia in particular as the current chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, to further cooperate with the U.N. secretary general in this connection. The Yugoslav side assured Velayati that his country was ready to cooperate with the U.N. chief.

In a separate meeting Wednesday, Velayati also briefed Irish Minister Sean Calleary on the Iranian proposal who described it as a "logical stand."

Calleary stressed his country's interest in upgrading relations with Iran. Welcoming broadening of bilateral relations Velayati stressed importance of further contacts between the two countries officials particularly that Ireland will chair the European Community as of next January.

Urges Steps Against South Africa

LD1412211389 Tehran IRNA in English 1945 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] United Nations, New York, Dec. 14, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Thursday that the Security Council should take firm and sincere steps in order to solve the problem of racism in South Africa.

Addressing a special session of the General Assembly on apartheid, Velayati added that measures taken so far in this direction by international organisations, "even though indispensable, had been insufficient."

In his speech, Velayati suggested several measures which could be adopted "to create the necessary restrictions for the regime of South Africa, contributing to its acceptance of a peaceful solution to put an end to apartheid and accept majority rule in that country."

Turning to the measures taken by international organisations and conferences in this connection,he said the inhuman policies of the regime of Pretoria have persisted unabatedly.

"The continuation of such criminal and inhuamn acts by Pretoria clearly manifests this regime's disrespect to the international community's will," he said.

Velayati criticised the United States, the Zionist entity and certain other Western countries for their extensive support to the Pretoria regime, saying that the support was extended despite numerous resolutions by the General Assembly calling all countries to cut their economic relations with South Africa.

"The expansion of such collaborations along with extensive cooperation of the racist Zionist and apartheid regimes, particularly in the field of nuclear technology has impaired international efforts to put an end to apartheid," he said.

He added that the economic interests of the United States and some of its Western allies in the continued joint ventures with South Africa and exploration of its resources, had brought about expanded relations between those countries and Pretoria, and contributed to its abuses and crimes as well as its disregard for the international community.

"A number of West European countries and the U.S. in contravention of the call of the international community and the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly since 1964, have embarked on expansion of their trade with the regime of Pretoria including arms trade, which in fact has led to the violation of arms sanctions imposed on that regime."

Velayati added that this rose serious concern on the part of the international community.

"The international community should not, as long as apartheid is not fully eradicated, ignore the likelihood of the continuation of Pretoria's destructive and provocative policies that constitute a potential threat to the future government of Namibia led by SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization]," he said.

The foreign minister stressed that the Security Council, as the organ responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, should not allow some of its permanent members, enticed by their personal interests, to impede the imposition of mandatory and comprehensive sanctions against the apartheid regime and in fact prevent the establishment of peace and security in Southern Africa.

He added that the meeting gave the international community the chance to express its abhorrence of racist policies of the regime of South Africa.

The foreign minister added that the white minority regime in South Africa had carried out oppressive and aggressive policies against the black majority and has continued to suppress the tyrannised freedom fighter of this land for more than 40 years.

Comments on Trip Upon Return

NC1712073389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's foreign minister, went to New York at the head of a political delegation to participate in the special UN General Assembly session on the issue of apartheid and to discuss implementing UN Resolution 598. He returned to Tehran this morning and answered correspondents' questions.

Mr Velayati said that the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers held two separate rounds of talks with the UN secretary general who wished to assess the stances of the two parties firsthand and directly. Mr Velayati added: Iraq adopted its usual stance of seeking excuses and obstructionism as in the past, and it did not accept the agenda proposed by the UN secretary general. Instead Iraq reiterated the proposal for setting up five committees of experts from both countries to hold talks on the issues to be discussed. Fortunately, this Iraqi proposal did not elicit the desired reaction in the United Nations, and the secretary general clearly stated that UN Resolution 598 is the agenda and nothing else.

Our foreign minister added: Iraq makes such suggestions from time to time and expects the UN secretary general and Iran to accept them while it tries to hedge on the UN secretary general's proposals.

Mr Velayati added: It is the duty of the secretary general to clarify the agenda on UN Resolution 598. He stated: Following the conclusion of the talks last Friday, the secretary general held a 5-hour session with the five permanent UN Security Council members and informed them of the latest developments on UN Resolution 598.

Regarding Iraqi motives for obstructionism in the implementation of UN Resolution 598, Mr Velayati said: Iraq's objectives are to obstruct and hamper the course of the talks to extort concessions. However, as in the past, the Islamic Republic of Iran will stand steadfast before any efforts on Iraq's part to gain undue advantages.

He continued: Iran is seeking the implementation of UN Resolution 598 and the establishment of a just and honorable peace in the region. Our foreign minister said: In the course of the peace talks, we have proven to the world that we will not succumb to blackmail. This is a suitable opportunity for the world to recognize the true nature of Iraq, not what the Iraqi regime earlier professed to be.

On continuing talks in the future, Mr Velayati said that the UN secretary general proposed that the next round of talks should be held in the month of Bahman [22 January-19 Febuary] or Esfand [20 February-20 March]. However, this depends on whether Iraq accepts the agenda proposed by the UN Secretary general; otherwise there is nothing to discuss, he said. This has been mentioned clearly to the secretary general.

The foreign minister added: In the event of Iraq's accepting the agenda, tripartite talks will be held. Concerning the UN Security Council's performance on UN Resolution 598, Mr Velayati said: Some of the members had a better stance but on the whole, the Security Council should be more serious regarding a resolution they have signed themselves.

On the validity of the Algiers accord of 1975, Mr Velayati stated that in the talks with the UN secretary general, he was asked openly to express his opinion on the validity of this accord on the basis of the documents at the United Nations.

Velayati Meets With Soviet Ambassador in Tehran

LD1812111889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] The Soviet ambassador to Tehran met Foreign Minister Velayati this morning. After the submission of a message from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, to Mr Velayati, discussions were held about the most important issues related to the expansion of all-encompassing ties, and about regional and international issues, including the talks toward the implementation of Un Resolution 598, and Afghanistan.

According to the Central News Unit, Mr Velayati said: Iran and the Soviet Union are two neighboring countries with expanding ties; a fact which plays an effective role in the reinforcement of peace and the stabilization of the regional and international situation.

Mahluji, Soviet Envoy Discuss Esfahan Steel Mill

LD1412135189 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 13 IRNA—Mines and Metals Minister Mohammad Hoseyn Mahluji today stressed the speedy expansion of the production capacity of the Esfahan steel mill by 1.9 million tons annually. Mahluji, in a meeting with Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Gudev, said the capacity should rise to 4 million tons annually in the future.

Bilateral technical and economic cooperation were also discussed in the meeting, where Gudev expressed his country's readiness for speedy follow up and implementation of the joint projects, and further coordination between the related organisations of the two countries.

He also termed 'fruitful and essential' the continuation of technical and economic ties between the two neighbours.

Pakistan To Arrest, Hand Over 'Insurgents'

NC1512112789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 154 Dec 89

[Text] All armed Iranian counterrevolutionary insurgents who have fled to Pakistani territory will be identified, arrested, and handed over to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

IRNA reports that this decision was adopted during the first meeting of the fourth joint border session between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, which was held yesterday afternoon in the presence of political and security officials of the two countries in Zahedan.

At the meeting, the deputy chief minister of Pakistan's Baluchistan Province announced in his capacity as the head of the Pakistani delegation: With the information to be given to us about the armed Iranian insurgents who have fled to Pakistan, we will carry out the necessary cooperation to return them to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

While studying the minutes and outcome of the decisions adopted during the third joint border session held earlier this year in Quetta, Pakistan, ideas were exchanged on how to fight armed insurgents and the need to prevent the activities of insurgents who are working against the security of Iran and Pakistan was emphasized.

The report also indicates that the meeting decided to set up a subcommittee which will study the steps necessary for creating border bases manned by border guards of the two countries.

It should be pointed out that the fourth joint Iranian-Pakistani border session which started work in Zahedan yesterday will continue for 3 days.

Further on Border Talks

NC1612110889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Recorded telephone report by an unidentified correspondent in Zahedan; date not given]

[Text] During the third session of the joint Iranian-Pakistani border committee which took place in Zahedan in the presence of the two countries' political-security officials, it was agreed that joint border control posts should be set up in order to fully control the border between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan to prevent activities of insurgents and drug smugglers. The Pakistani side also announced that new police posts will also be set up on the borders.

During the second session of the committee, discussions were held on forming a subcommittee to take charge of establishing more rapid contacts between the Iranian and Pakistani police and between the two countries' border officials in order to accelerate the search and arrest of insurgents, smugglers, and criminals. Decisions were also adopted by the two delegations.

Meanwhile, in order to prevent the illegal entry and exit of people in both countries, it was decided that more meetings should be held between the two countries' border officials.

This is the correspondent of the Central News Unit in Zahedan.

Further on Detention of Iranian Students in UK

LD1812153189 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 18 Dec 89

[All names as received]

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA—In Manchester, the British police detained and jailed four Muslim students from Iran on Friday following the massive demonstrations staged by Muslims at over 1,000 mosques in Britain against the apostate Salman Rushdie's 'The Satanic Verses,' a Persian daily reported Monday.

KAYHAN said the British police broke into the homes of Javad Musavi, Hussein Gharibi, Mehrdad Kokabi and Kamran Abavinia without producing any legal warrants, and after the unauthorised searching of their homes forcibly took them into custody.

Although, three days have passed since the unauthorised arrest of the 4 Iranian students, Scotland Yard, has declined to confirm or deny the news.

Britain is home to over two million Muslims, and last Friday, the faithful assembled in more than 1,000 mosques throughout the country at the invitation of the British Sunni Muslims union, to endorse the death fatwa issued by the late Imam Khomeyni against the Indian born British apostate.

The unprecedented demonstrations dubbed as a day of solidarity of British Muslims against the blasphemous novel, have been widely reflected by the British press, KAYHAN noted.

Islam rules death penalty for apostasy, and in accordance with divine laws, the great leader of the Islamic Revolution issued a fatwa last February, calling all Muslims across the globe to bring Salman Rushdie to justice for blaspheming Islam and Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him).

The decree was hailed worldwide, prompting the apostate to go into immediate hiding, under the British Government's protection. London's unwise move resulted in the breaking of ties with Tehran in March, after a week-long ultimatum from the Majlis.

Majlis Speaker Calls for Seminary-University Ties

LD1812124789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Telephone report by correspondent Ja'Fari from the 18 December proceedings of the Islamic Majlis' open session in Tehran—live or recorded]

[Text] During the open session of the Islamic Majlis this morning, chaired by Mr Karrubi, the debate on clauses of the bill on the first [5-year] plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran's economic, social, and cultural development; and several amendments, proposed by the deputies, were approved.

During this session, Speaker of the Islamic Majlis Mr Karrubi, in a speech referring to the martyrdom anniversary of Ayatollah Dr Mofatteh, paid tribute to this illustrious martyr for his services to the Islamic revolution and the valuable role he played in bringing closer the two scientific bases of seminary and university.

Referring to the particular attention that his holiness imam, may his dust be sanctified, paid to the seminaries and universities, the speaker of the Islamic Majlis said: We hope that his holiness imam's way of thinking in this connection will continue and the Islamic association of universities, the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council, and the seminaries will strive so that the links between the university forces and seminaries become stronger than ever before; and the seminary forces and young religious students will join the university forces to move forward, toward realization of the goals of the Islamic revolution; and no doubt their unity, cohesiveness, and closeness of ranks will become stronger, thanks to the vigilance and awareness of the educated forces.

Germans Said Giving Iraq Nuclear Arms Technology

LD1812192889 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Bonn, Dec. 18, IRNA—West Germany's Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) and Federal Intelligence Office (BND) have cast suspicion on the owners Dietrich Hinze and Peter Huetten of "H H Engineering Works" Drensteinfurt, near the Westphalian city of Muenster, of having delivered machines to Iraq during the last two years with which one can produce "Gas-Ultra-Centrifuges" (GUZ).

The German weekly 'DER SPIEGEL' today reported that it is possible in such plants to enrich uranium 235 by 90 per cent and that out of such a production comes the substance for an atomic bomb.

In the meantime the government in Bonn knows a lot of the case and is now highly alarmed. In addition to H H's supply, more German nuclear specialists who have access to top secret documents are supposed to have sold their knowledge to Ba'thist Iraq.

Especially the U.S. State Department has for a long time had a strong suspicion that highly dangerous German arms have been delivered to the Iraqi regime.

Meanwhile, the public prosecutor's office in Muenster today tried to belittle the 'DER SPIEGEL' exposure as "ancient news." A spokesman said concerning this case preliminary proceedings had been instituted at the Federal German bar a couple of weeks ago but had to be abandoned after a short while because of, what he termed, lack of sufficient evidences.

Customs authorities for their part said that "all goods that were exported did either not require official approval or were exported with approval."

According to DER SPIEGEL, BND and BKA have determined 77 year old Walter Busse as wire-puller. He used to work as head of department at MAN Technology LTD., Munich. Without his former employer's knowledge he is supposed to have built up a close network of relations between Iraqi and Brazilian atmomic bomb producers on the one hand and German suppliers on the other.

In the course of their checkings investigators found out that pensioner Busse had been in Iraq at least twice last year and this year. He is regarded as the man who contacted Iraqi arms specialists Anis Wadi and Dr Safa' al-Habbubi who were specially authorized by their government for 'H H'.

Bruno Stemmler, 56, sometimes expert for rotor techniques at MAN Technology LTD. accompanied Busse to Baghdad. His superiors, too, did not know anything about his Iraqi-escapades. The searchers soon realized that Busse had urgently needed the MAN-expert Stemmler for the precision work at al-Tuwaythah, the center of Iraq's atomic research. Western know-how is much sought-after there and Busse and Stemmler had a lot to offer. Their MAN Technology LTD. is a specialist in the field of centrifuge techniques.

Busse and Stemmler are supposed to have supervised the production start of 'H H's' plant at al-Tuwaythah. There centrifuges are produced with 'H H'-rolling machines.

'DER SPIEGEL' also reported that dozens of West German firms have already delivered technique and know-how for the Sa'd 16-arms project near the city of Mosul in north Iraq.

There, it states, Saddam Husayn's forces up the development of new arms technologies, and there he has chemical weapons produced and missiles with different ranges built.

The Ba'thist dictator's special ambition, however, has for many years been the development of the bomb.

Since 1981 at the latest Saddam, whose hands drip with the blood of both Iranian and Iraqi Muslims; got himself talked about as an architect of the atomic bomb.

According to information of Western secret services Saddam seems to be rather close to the bomb now. The Iraqi Ba'thists have set their sights on this aim, either by hook or by crook.

Atomic-buyers from Baghdad got in touch wherever they could buy nuclear technology or know-how, legally or illegally. They also went to Brazil where they met German expert Busse at Avibras armaments factory.

The former manager of 'MAN' was able to bring in good connections to German firms, mainly to 'H H' at Drensteinfurt. And the 'H H' owners did a lot of business dealings with Avibras.

Orders from Baghdad got things going at 'H H's. During the last years of its war against Iran, the Iraqi regime got in supplies of mainly missiles from there.

BKA and BND investigators suspect that the Iraqi regime already has a share in the firm secretly. 'H H', however, denies that. All the same the investigators have a telefax in hand which 'H H' sent to Iraqi negotiators in London. It says in Arabic "a firm that can be brought".

*Interview With Former Intelligence Official

90OI0076A London KEYHAN in Persian
7 Dec 89 p 12

[Interview with unnamed former Intelligence official; date, place not given]

[Text] About a month and a half ago, a clergyman who had held a sensitive post in the regime of the Islamic Republic's intelligence apparatus sought political asylum in a northern European country along with his wife and children. Officials of the host nation, who knew of his situation and position, studied his request amid stringent security arrangements, but they restrained him from any kind of self-expression or disclosure. The regime's intelligence official was told that in the event of any form of disclosure of his asylum or any interviews concerning his presence in that country, his application might face difficulties. These considerations have now, to some extent, been eliminated, but this clergyman is still in hiding and living with the necessary security precautions. Our colleague, M. Huriar, who was able to contact this exiled insider into the subtleties of the Islamic Republic's intelligence organizations and security tricks, got his agreement to an interview with KEYHAN of London. What you will read below is excerpts from our exclusive interview with this turbaned member of the Tehran regime's security organizations.

For understandable reasons, his name will be kept confidential, and we will call him "Seyyed," at his own suggestion. Seyyed regarded the title "Rats Leaving a Sinking Ship" as a suitable one for his interview with KEYHAN, and believes that he himself left the Islamic Republic when it was like a broken and sinking ship. He makes no secret of the fact that he has brought with him a "small fortune" to avoid being in need of foreigners.

It is necessary to note that what you will read is purely the knowledge and views of "Seyyed", just as he made it available to us.

[KEYHAN] Now that Khomeyni has died, how do you view the future of the Islamic Republic?

[Seyyed] The imam's death actually occurred in three stages. The first stage was about 2 years ago when he was hospitalized for about 2 months with a heart attack. He was so seriously ill that there was little hope of improvement, and we in the intelligence organization undertook to suppress the news. After the danger passed and during his convalescence, physicians said there was no immediate danger, but they recommended strict rest. Even so, the imam continued to insist on keeping abreast of conditions in the country, and sometimes during this his orders were contradictory. Of course, few knew of the situation outside the leadership apparatus, but those within the regime with claims to power seemed to promote these contradictions to get ahead of their rivals. It got to the point that in a few months the imam's popularity and charisma were so reduced that a group of his students were emboldened to question some of his directives to the effect that he was the sole religiously lawful authority and acceptable source of emulation. The second stage can be said to be his agreement to the United Nations Security Council's Resolution such-and-such, in which, as he said, he swallowed poison. This measure severely weakened the imam's authority and resoluteness as the powerful leader of the Islamic Republic in the eyes of his youthful supporters. Those who had sacrificed their lives and their being at his command for victory in the war with the infidels did not understand this measure, or the agreement to end the war and especially the authorization to negotiate peace with Saddam.

Although outwardly, they said nothing. Of course the imam died a year after the acceptance of the resolution, but in the eyes of many he thought himself dead after accepting the cease fire. His order to kill Salman Rushdie, author of The Satanic Verses, was given at the insistence of those around him, and those close to him say that the imam had told them not to ask him questions whose answer would create problems, because if they asked they would have to stand by the answer forever!

[KEYHAN] Where will the power struggle among the regime's officials lead?

[Seyyed] The power struggle among the regime's officials will be pursued more vigorously in the future, but the parties to the dispute will always observe caution.

Currently neither side has the ability to eliminate the other, and under present conditions this situation could continue for some time.

[KEYHAN] What happened that 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who was thought capable of turning things to his own advantage in a short time and taking over the main bastions of power, has now become so impotent?

[Seyyed] Khamene'i deceived him. Because of his unwavering support of Khomeyni, Hashemi-Rafsanjani had great power during his lifetime. He thought that with agreement to the selection of Khamene'i as leader and the changes to the Constitution he would himself take over power in the country, but as leader, Khamene'i is thinking that now that he has taken all power into his own hands he will have the final say in every decision. If Hashemi-Rafsanjani is completely defeated, of which there is little likelihood, Khamene'i will have absolute power and be virtually without rival. Even so, ultimately

Khamene'i is thinking of creating a third power and removing both of the current antagonist powers from the fray.

[KEYHAN] Could the struggle for power lead to the fall of the Islamic Republic?

[Seyyed] The current struggle for power among regime officials and the battles that will follow will not cause the fall of the government of the Islamic Republic. The idea that the parties to the quarrel will weaken and damage one another so much that, for example, the monarchists will take advantage of the situation and take over power, is nothing more than a myth. Many files on the doings of these people, and actually that of all the nationalists and liberals are in the archives of the current regime's Ministry of Intelligence, which have been compiled and prepared with great care and trouble, and I believe that they are close to the truth. In the event of a continuation of the power struggle among the regime's leaders and the weakening of both sides, there are other forces within the circle of power now who can seize power at the opportune time. These powers are in close contact with the people, and they are fully aware of their capabilities and desires. Moreover, some of the regime's confidential intelligence is easily available to them, and they know how they can take advantage of the support of foreign powers.

[KEYHAN] Is the universal belief a mistake then, that a significant percentage of the people of Iran would welcome the return of a constitutional government?

[Seyyed] On the contrary, this conclusion is quite correct. It can be said that the people gave up hope on the revolution and the Islamic Republic about 7 years ago. In the last few years the common people have fallen into such hardship and misery that, unlike the exiles living abroad, they now hope for a simple life without disturbance. They would be happy now with half of what they had under the former regime. Do not forget that Iranians living abroad think of Iran as it was 7 or 8 years ago, and they believe that the nation still wants to achieve the demands made during the days of its massive demonstrations.

Even so, it must be added that based on detailed studies of the people of Iran which are in the intelligence archives, the popularity of any regime accepted among Iranians will not last long, and when things calm down, the people will remember again their former slogans and complain about their situation.

For the first time in history, the Ministry of Intelligence has been able properly to identify the characteristics of the people of Iran and to become aware of the abilities, shortcomings, and other aspects of this unique race. This task was beyond the abilities of the SAVAK of the shah's day, with all its resources and foreign advisors.

Let us return to the beginning of the revolution, after the humiliation of the hypocrites (I must say that I was both a Muslim and a clergyman before the revolution and I will always remain a Muslim). In the eyes of a Muslim, the term mojahed is used to refer to someone who fights for the aims of Islam and the Muslims. He uses the term guerrilla and fighter to refer to someone who fights for goals under a specific ideology. If a communist guerrilla, for example, fights against Islam, then he is an infidel or a corrupt person in the eyes of Islam, but he is not a hypocrite because he has not entered the fight in Muslim garb. If, however, someone enters a fight in Muslim garb to advance another ideology and if he sows discord among Muslims to advance that goal or ideology, he is a hypocrite, and the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, who are 100 percent Marxist, have employed this hypocritical method and really should be known as hypocrites.

After the humiliation of the hypocrites we were worried about the activities of Shapur Bakhtiar. The reason for the worry was that Bakhtiar was considered one of the shah's enemies. The SAVAK had investigated him several times. He was even imprisoned for a time, although briefly, and in that short period of his tenure as prime minister he showed courage and power. During that time, most of the people, with the exception of the well-to-do classes in north Tehran, were not yet completely disillusioned with the regime. The point was especially made here and there that this was a time of revolution and it was better to wait until after the enactment of the Constitution and the election of a parliament and a president, and give the government a chance until then. However, with the relentless clashes between the clergy and the liberals, especially after the ousting of Engineer Bazargan and Bani Sadr and the imam giving the clergy permission to take over political power, the people gradually began to regret turning their backs on Bakhtiar. For some time Bakhtiar was seen as an important line, and this is the reason the imam's office issued orders to assassinate him.

Suddenly, however, the abduction of the naval vessel "Tabarzin" by the monarchists brought the regime against a new and dangerous problem. During the few days that this ship was held by the monarchists, there was an absolutely unimaginable volume of propaganda about it. Officials of the regime's Ministry of Intelligence and Security sent many agents to the streets and bazaars to familiarize themselves with the people's reactions. There was confidential information that this brought about a kind of gladness and hope in the hearts of the people. This was the first time there was talk of a return of the monarchy to Iran. Bakhtiar spoke vaguely of the Constitution, and everyone thought he was thinking of taking over power like Franco of Spain, or fighting for it. Bakhtiar's existence and visibility as leader of the opposition diverted the attention of everyone away from the return of the monarchy, and in the eyes of the regime this was a positive act. However, the widespread propaganda concerning the vessel Tabarzin and the people's reaction was most worrying for the regime. It was rumored among security officials that some officials in the regime who agree with the West took advantage of this opportunity, and, with the imam's permission, got assurances from the Western nations that no help would be given to the monarchists. Another of the regime's worries, which is still extant, was that Hollywood profiteers would make a film of the abduction of this vessel for personal gain, and the playing of that film would once again set the world talking about the legality of a return of the monarchy to Iran.

After this episode, it was thought that a unified front might be established between Bakhtiar and the monarchists.

However, the harsh articles appearing in Bakhtiar's publications attacked the monarchists more than the regime. More than half of every issue of the publication QIYAM-E IRAN was against the monarchists and other opposition groups. Articles against the Islamic Republic were sometimes satirical or were actually written to give personal credibility to Bakhtiar. Before long it was proven to the regime's security officials that Bakhtiar's close advisors were actually supporters of the republic and were using Bakhtiar's name and popularity to damage the monarchists and the members of the National Front. We heard later that Bakhtiar ousted many of them. Within Iran, SAVAMA [Sazeman-e Amniyat Va Ettela'at-e Melli-ye Iran] members spread rumors, especially in taxis, that the differences between Bakhtiar and Reza Pahlavi were for expedience, and that in reality Reza Pahlavi had chosen Bakhtiar as his prime minister. The attempt was to make the monarchists look weak and incompetent.

Afterwards, it became clear that there had been no need for this. Whenever Reza Pahlavi's supporters initiated something—transmitting his image on television, sending up balloons, or circulating his picture—Bakhtiar's supporters would immediately imitate and repeat these actions. It got to the point that in Tehran, Mashhad, Esfahan, and Shiraz many of the people were saying that Bakhtiar wanted the monarchy for himself and not the Pahlavi family!

While all this was taking place, the Ministry of Intelligence learned through bits and pieces of information that the Americans were willing to give a stamp of approval to the monarchists and Bakhtiar, provided that a kind of understanding be brought about between Iranian officials and America. The Ministry of Intelligence, or at least its lower officials, learned of this only after the Irangate episode was over. Following that, the secret directive in the Ministry of Intelligence was that everything said and written about Iran and the Islamic government in America should be carefully studied and analyzed.

Commentaries in all the important American newspapers analyzed the official and unofficial views of American officials and especially the personal reactions of America's president, Ronald Reagan, concerning the imam's speeches. As the result of these analyses, we understood that America's various intelligence organizations, with the expenditure of huge sums, were able to obtain very interesting and correct information about Iran, the government of the Islamic Republic, and the members of the government, and that the educated exiled Iranians in the West, for whatever reason and with whatever motivation, were able to give American officials an accurate picture of conditions in Iran. However, in the final analyses made by the Americans themselves, since American criteria were used, all of this money was wasted and the desired results were not achieved. It was written in some Iranian expatriate publications that "Khomeyni always does the opposite of what Reagan says and wants", yet what Reagan officially asked Khomeyni to do through the VOICE OF AMERICA was to pardon some Baha'i, for example, showing that they still have no knowledge of the way of thinking of the officials of the Islamic Republic.

These studies and their results brought nothing more than another blind alley. The Americans did not attribute much importance to these several thousand intellectual Iranian minds at work in the important American universities and institutions, and do not count on them to create a government favorable to the West. Of course in the beginning, it was thought that this might be a calculated move by the Americans to mislead the officials of the Islamic Republic, but later, with the use of the experiences and views of friends in the Eastern European nations who have highly valuable experience in this matter, and then later with practical proof, it was shown that the Ministry of Intelligence's conclusions concerning America were absolutely correct. Of course there are other issues which show that America intends to give effective assistance to the supporters of a constitutional monarchy, but now, in order to protect Iranian secrets, I will say no more about this subject.

Briefly, the government officials of the United States think that most Iranians, in general, prefer the existing government to others, and that if someone can stop the hard-liners in the Islamic Republic and meet the daily needs of the people, they would prefer that to a monarchy or other form of government. Likewise, if the Iran-Iraq war had ended after Iraq left Iran in the first year of the war, Iranians would be content with conditions now.

Here I would like to mention another important issue, and that is the confidential reports the embassies of the Islamic Republic have recently sent to the central government. According to these reports, exiled Iranians are gradually being absorbed into Western societies. Almost every month a few Iranians acquire citizenship in their host countries, and as their economic conditions improve they abandon the desire to fight to return to the country. More than 2 and ½ years ago the regime's security officials realized that if it were made possible for the relatives of exiled Iranians to go abroad and visit their families, their hatred and consequently their fight against the Islamic Republic would be diminished by their despair of the opposition's resources. Although this was borne out at the outset with regard to the monarchists and nationalists, who were "harmless" in the regime's view, it has also recently come to include other leftist groups, and especially the hypocrites. The disenchantment of expatriate Iranians with the opposition's lack of organization and structure has not been lost on the regime. At different times and for various reasons, the Iranians come together, stage demonstrations, shed tears, gather strength again, and since there is no organized plan for the struggle, they return to their isolation again until news of Iran is heard again. In general, since the imam's death and with the inactivity of the entire opposition, the disenchantment of the people has increased.

The officials of the Islamic Republic know well that there is no serious threat to the regime from the hypocrites. The hypocrites now have only a limited military force, and since they do not have the support of the people, they cannot be considered a serious threat to the regime. On the other hand, the members of the hypocrites who are now in prison have said repeatedly that part of their strength is reserved to fight the nationalists and especially the monarchists, and that is not very serious either...

As we understand it, to this day the monarchists and the other nationalist forces have taken no serious measures that could make them an active threat to the regime. They have "potential" power and legitimacy, but there is not yet any evidence to show that this danger and this force can—even in the distant future—manifest any actual power. Therefore, to an extent the regime is secure and the bad effects of this security only reach the people inside the country. If the regime were not as secure as this, both parties to the domestic power struggle would at least try to meet the basic needs of the people so that while continuing the power struggle they would be able to prove to the people of the world that they enjoy the support of the people. However their confidence in the complete impotence of opposition on the right and left has caused them to discount all the people of Iran, and this is another sin that has been written about in the books of the opposition leaders on the right and on the left, and history will bear witness to it.

[KEYHAN] What factor could influence the regime in the future?

[Seyyed] I say with complete confidence that now within Iran and in the cities and even the important villages, underground opposition groups have been formed. I am also confident that there are people among the members of the regime's intelligence organizations and even in the revolutionary guards who are aligned with the regime but are waiting for the day of reckoning, and at the sensitive moment they will have the ability and the inclination to render effective assistance to the opposition forces.

One of the most important and most worrisome pieces of information obtained by the Islamic regime's Ministry of Intelligence and Security—which they are trying to keep completely secret—is that if one day the organization and structure of the monarchists acquires international legitimacy, and if the foreign radio stations for example begin to speak of the possibility of a victory by them, a great many important and wealthy preachers will secretly leave Iran. The regime's intelligence organization is certain that if some day, as the result of a few political victories—not just military victories—the monarchists become serious contenders, the flight of the first prominent clergyman from Iran will be such a blow to the regime as a whole that it may worry larger groups of government officials and encourage them to flee.

If this happens, will the revolutionary guards still risk their lives to protect such clergymen? The answer is no, of course.

Even the regime's lowest intelligence officials know that resistance cells against the Islamic regime have been formed and exist in every area and region, but the mechanism that can connect them to each other has not yet appeared, and the regime has made every effort to prevent the emergence of an organized movement. Most of these resistance cells are not even armed, but if something happens, even a spark, these groups would join together in just a few hours and in those same first few hours a large number of armed revolutionary guards would join them.

Briefly, an organized opposition organization must be formed abroad. There must be formed a government in exile—a shadow government—or whatever other name seems advisable. It must also rest on Islam and not tread on the sacred domains of Muslims. If such a government is formed and the Iranians—that is a large group of them—in various countries of the world recognize it officially and demonstrate for it in various ways, the resistance cells in Iran will find new strength and be encouraged to join together in unity and solidarity. If organized opposition appears abroad and about half the exiled Iranians support it, the first effect will be the appearance of discontent and weakness among the regime's revolutionary guards in Iran. The first group of revolutionary guards who will think about doing something are those who are now both unhappy and worried about conditions but who do not yet have a reason to cut ties with the regime and connect with the people. The number of revolutionary guards of this type is ten times greater than those who still seriously support the regime. Do not forget that all the revolutionary guards are armed, and every group of them has a base that others cannot easily enter.

Take note that the situation in the world today is more favorable to liberate Iran than at any other time. The so-called hard-line clergy in Iran, who have benefitted from the support of some elements aligned with the communist world or with intelligence agents from Eastern bloc nations, today find themselves more isolated than ever. Soon, with the changes that will occur in the leadership of the Eastern bloc nations, the priorities in the countries of this bloc will be welfare and freedom, and those priorities will differ greatly and fundamentally with the ones that existed in the past for the pleasure of big brother, meaning the Soviet Union. The Eastern bloc nations will soon rediscover their freedom, and most importantly, their independence, and they will need many friends in human society, not among despotic and selfish leaders. For this reason, the clergymen who supported the selfish leaders of the Marxist regimes, who are seeing their own certain isolation, will behave even more harshly. The first consequence of that will be more torment for the people of Iran, followed by the withdrawal of the revolutionary guard's support of the regime.

Although the first is worrisome, the next stage will make up for the past to some extent.

The Eastern and warm [as published] plotters today are caught up in their problems more than at any other time, and the changes in the communist world are occupying them more than at any other time.

They all also know that these changes in Eastern Europe will spread over the world. Passing interests will therefore no longer make them think of supporting the world's fearsome dictatorships.

*Report on Proceedings of 8 Nov Majles Session

90OI047A Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 9 Nov 89 pp 11, 10

[Text] News Department—With approval of all remaining articles of the bill amending the National Retirement and Pension Employment Law the aforementioned bill received final Majles approval. Under this legislation, the Majles raised retirement and disability pensions for those retiring, disabled, or dying before the end of 1346 [20 March 1968] by 20 percent.

Likewise, the pensions of employees who retired, became disabled, or died between the beginning of 1347 [21 March 1968] and the end of 1368 [20 March 1990] will be supplemented with 1 percent allowances in addition to the aforementioned 20 percent for every 2 years in which retirement deductions were taken from permanent benefits, work allowances, or employment benefits.

Workers who have paid retirement deductions or insurance premiums will be exempt from paying retirement deductions.

Yesterday's public Majles session was chaired by Speaker Karrubi and continued under Mr Bayat. All of the proposed bill to create coordination and equilibrium in the allocation of credit for development projects in Paragraph A and Paragraph J, Note 15 in the 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] National Budget Law was rejected.

Remarks by the Fariman, Sarkhas, and Ahmadabad Deputy

The first pre-agenda speaker was Mr Seyyed Hoseyn Qazizadeh Hashemi, representative for the people of Fariman, Sarkhas, and Ahmadabad. During his talk, while offering congratulations on the joyous birth of Imam Hasan 'Askari (peace be upon him), he said: Why don't the United Nations Security Council and secretary-general name the party obstructing the implementation of Resolution 598, and why don't they name the one who is primarily to blame for the deadlocked talks?

Mr Secretary-General, why don't they use propaganda and psychological resources for the implementation of Resolution 598?

He added: The Security Council's inability to solve the problem of the occupied lands of the oppressed people of Palestine shows that it does not have the ability to implement Resolution 598. The Security Council has resorted to the element of time so it can use various forms of leverage at different points to blackmail Iran and Iraq for its own benefit.

He then told the president to take the implementation of Resolution 598 out of international clutches and adopt some other method.

The late imam of the nation said that the 1975 treaty must be fully implemented, not one word less nor one word more, and there will be no prisoner releases before a withdrawal to the borders.

Continuing his remarks, he discussed the situation in Lebanon. He said: The situation in this country has reached a new level of complexity, and things have gotten to the point that America's previously devised plans are being implemented by Fahd.

In Lebanon, the composition of deputies has been so arranged that if efforts are not made factionalism will reign and mostly Christian ministers will be selected. Addressing our nation's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he said that in these circumstances the Hezbollah faction and the vast masses of the people of Lebanon must be aided in achieving their goals at the level they expect from the Islamic Republic of Iran, so that people who are Muslims but who follow the ways and methods of 'Arafat will not take power in Lebanon.

Continuing his talk, the speaker made some points addressed to the government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He said: The accounting and foreign exchange expenditures guidelines for delegations being sent abroad must be precisely carried out. Recently we had a delegation in a country that spent far more money than the costs of the trip. I now submit additional foreign exchange to the respected speaker of the Majles, along with a note, and along with a receipt. I would like sufficient supervision and control to be exercised by the appropriate organization in the payment of foreign exchange for missions, in view of the increasing numbers of delegations being sent abroad.

Likewise, he must exercise control through the Islamic Republic of Iran's embassies and consulates outside the country. Officials and delegations sent on missions abroad for brief periods of time must use foreign exchange from authorized government sources and not violate the regulations in countries that have two kinds of currency.

He then discussed the government's opposition to Majles proposals to combine some of the ministries, and in this regard he said that one of the basic issues is the huge problem of the nation's administrative and executive government which remains intact, and that there have been few positive and significant changes to show the inclusion of revolutionary principles in the aggregate of the administrative relationships and regulations.

He added: Is it absolutely necessary for the government to present a bill? What difference does it make? If the government needs an expert in this area, and if it wants to present the expert's conclusions to the Majles in the form of a future bill, let it now submit while the bills submitted by the deputies are being studied.

Mr Qazizadeh then discussed the extraordinary increase in allowances paid to the nation's managers. He said: The allowances paid to managers up to group nine increased from 6,000 tomans to 7,000 tomans recently, and the allowances for managers in group ten and higher increased from 7,000 to 9,000 tomans. I ask that just increases in employment allowances be given for all jobs.

If the government anticipates the necessary increases in income, it should increase employment allowances justly for all jobs. Why does it ignore service jobs when increasing employment allowances? He mentioned the arrival of the 52d anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Seyyed Hasan Modarres. He said: The third Majles and the Council of Guardians need two major changes in order to compile the expected laws and to display religion in the administration of society. The first is a transformation of thought and inference, the second is transformation of morale and spirit. The preliminaries for these changes came after the issuance of a religious decree by the late great leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni (may God have mercy upon him) and the publication of the proclamation of the revolution. There is a basic and fateful difference between the second Majles and the third Majles. In the third Majles, however, the proclamation of the revolution and the will, messages, and religious decrees of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran have drawn a bright and broad outlook for the nation's law-making.

He said: In order for us to be able to create laws that resolve problems and create solutions, we must revise our intellectual frame of reference. We must perceive the current situation, where the management of society has fallen into the hands of Islam and Islamic law, as a matter of good fortune, and we must make use of this situation with every kind of inference and conclusion.

The laws and principles available to the theologian when theology is in seclusion are certainly not used when the theologian rules, and the way they are used must be revised. In view of the clear principles of Islam, principles and laws must be established that are to be used under Islamic rule.

There are many examples in the history of theology that clearly support such claims. As an example, let us look at two religious decrees from Imam Khomeyni (may God have mercy upon him). The imam of the nation, in the chapter on contemporary affairs in Volume 2 of his book "Explanation of Means," says, "Fixing merchandise prices and prohibiting its owners from selling at high prices is not permissible." The same subject, however, that is the conversion and fixing of prices, when raised under Islamic rule, is expressed in this different way by the imam of the nation: "It is the right of the imam and the ruler of the Muslims to do whatever is needed by way of fixing prices, limiting industry, trade, and other matters in order to preserve the government and secure the interests of society."

In this religious decree, the rule is protection of the government and securing the interests of society, as shown in the religious decree.

If such a change takes place in the intellectual frame of reference of the deputies of the Third Majles and the Council of Guardians, certainly the laws made will be constructive and useful in untangling the legal problems in economic, legal, social, and other areas.

Continuing his remarks, he said: The imam of the nation's answer to Mr Sarhaddizadeh shows that the Labor Law should be enacted and implemented as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, it has been 2 years since the imam's answer, and workers are still awaiting final enactment of the Labor Law.

In the Labor Law recently enacted by the Majles, the Council of Guardians found about 33 constitutional problems, 26 of which involved the financial burden.

The best thing to do is to turn the financial problems over to the Expediency Discernment Council to approve it out of necessity. Likewise, the 32 problems in the area of religious law should be amended in such a way that ultimately we will have a Labor Law for the workers of our nation that creates solutions and solves problems.

Under Islamic rule the four principles of justice, fighting poverty, preserving the government, and the primary and secondary commands, overshadow other theological concerns, and take precedence over them.

Justice is a clear Islamic principle and is the foundation of orthodox Islam. In the words of Martyr Motahhari, the government is responsible for procuring social justice, otherwise civil and individual justice would automatically be carried out in individual relationships.

He adds: Throughout history, the divine prophets have spent the entire time of their missions fighting the wealthy and prosperous. They have always called upon the poor and the oppressed to rise up and revolt against the rich and arrogant. Thus any inference, religious decree, proposal, or bill of law that in some way intensifies poverty and widens the gap in living standards between the people and which divides Islamic society into rich and poor groups runs contrary to the work of the divine prophets and violates the rule of God.

The late great leader of the Islamic revolution said in the proclamation of the revolution: Presenting proposals and actually clarifying the position of the economy of Islam in the matter of protecting the interest of the deprived and expanding their public participation and Islam's fight with hoarders is the greatest gift and the best portent for the liberation of mankind from the chains of poverty and indigence, along with explaining the truth that those with wealth and riches under Islamic rule take no precedence in this regard over the poor. The principle of preserving Islamic rule is one of the clear duties of Islam. In the theology of Islam, the government has a place before which the clearest and most sacred obligations are nothing. The obligation to protect it comes before all other obligations. The most telling witness to this claim is the reduction in the sanctity of blood before the government. The primary and secondary commands are not the same under the rule of a just government as they are when there is the need for dissimulation and there is no rightful government. I deem it necessary that the respected deputies look at the primary and secondary commands from the government's point of view.

On the necessity of a transformation of morale and spirit, I must say that the time is past for baseless fear and terror from the paper tigers of the coast, who know nothing but talk. The imam of the nation (may God have mercy upon him), stepped forward with all his power and opened the way to compile government laws and to clarify the revolutionary positions of Islam in various economic, social, cultural, political, and other areas with his ground-breaking messages and guidance.

The idea existed in the old days that the breach between the classes and the scandalous gap between incomes is a natural tradition established by God to train his servants and to divide heaven and hell, that idea is gone today and the eternal proclamation of the revolution has declared that such an idea comes from the world's imperialists, who have always infused it into the mind and spirit of the Third World and continue to do so.

Mr Qazizadeh said: The essence of the economic calculations and transactions that exist in the world, especially in the capitalist system, is profit, and profit. In today's world economic culture, criteria such as justice, meeting the needs of the people, preventing class divisions, and the use of wealth and material goods as a means to an end are no more than a joke. Today, our government must deal decisively with economic irresponsibility in the private sector. Today is the time when a solution must be sought for the fact that most of society's wealth circulates among a small number of the nation's wealthy, and an end must be put to the scandalous income gap that exists, which is the great stumbling block for an Islamic society.

At the same time, it is necessary to note that the same people who only yesterday hated the sound of slogans to protect the deprived and fight capitalism, now love the imam's sweet words about fighting poverty and capitalism, and now they themselves are even more avid than their source of inspiration, to the point that he has become the subject of some of their talks and writings.

The Fariman, Sarkhas, and Ahmadabad deputy concluded his talk by stating that if the flame of hope dies in the hearts of the oppressed, it will certainly be the law-making centers who are more to blame than anyone, and that the fate of the orthodox faith depends on the acute insight and prescience of lawmakers. He also explained some of the statements of the imam of the nation.

Let us see what you and the government you have chosen will do with the nation of oppressed people, which has brought all of us out of isolation with the blessing of its revolution.

Tehran Deputy's Remarks

The second pre-agenda speaker was Mrs Marziyeh Hadidchi (Dabbagh), Tehran deputy, who said:

With greetings to the dear leader of the revolution, the vice-regent of the Muslims, His Holiness Aya'ollah Khamene'i, may God protect him, who immediately ordered a meeting upon hearing my voice and accepted it in the best way. In addition to his friendliness, he listened to everything I said with special attention, and gave the necessary guidance. O God, help him yourself so that with your hidden hand and with the help of the imam of the age, peace be upon him, and with the nation of the imam he will be able to achieve all the goals of the great leader of the revolution and dear Islam.

She added: I must say to the foolish people that I will not allow anyone to misuse my cries and laments and comment on them, of course I believe that whoever speaks his own mind helps me. Continuing, she made some points and said: I ask Mr Nuri, the respected interior minister, what have you done about the problems discussed previously, and what are your ideas for solutions? The Great Satan America does not know that dear Islam has solved the problem of fear of death or martyrdom, even at the hands of these professional murderers, who are endangering the security of all nations and people of the world with their terrorist club. It will not be fooled by this trick either, because the Muslims of the world have been awakened by the Islamic revolution and the prophetic leadership of the imam of the nation, may God be pleased with him. They prefer eternal life with their heads above the wretched life of this earth, and they are proud. Therefore, all the world and all truth-seeking people have the right to ask, who are you? Where do you come from, to give yourself the right to destroy your opponents wherever they may be in the world through kidnapping and assassination? Yet people who cry for justice, while your murdering sons in the occupied lands show no mercy on the men and women and their small and great ones, are convicted of international terrorism, and your lackeys do whatever they wish to them in accordance with their law, which is the law of the jungle. I say to the minister of education and training, Mr Najafi, sir, you will get nowhere with these acts and reactions. The schools and ministry of the Islamic Republic are neither Los Angeles nor the fountain of the era of the idolaters. They are places for learning and teaching, where someone can take over the investments of the revolution as minister or teacher in order to purify himself from the political games and account-settling of the past and take on the ethics of Islam. I say to the respected minister of foreign affairs Mr Velayati to tell some of the brothers in that ministry to study Islam a bit and the sayings of his holiness the imam, may Almighty God be pleased with him, and when they are giving interviews in France or elsewhere they should not say that the veil is a religious matter and a domestic affair. They must realize that religion and politics cannot be separated in Islam, and that Islam knows no borders.

I also say to our great brother Mr Mohammad Hashemi, who was kind enough to say hello and good morning to the planners that since all the people, officers, clergymen, merchants, engineers, and doctors, in short both great and small understand and accept what he says, to give some attention to that plan as well.

Taft Deputy's Remarks

The final pre-agenda speaker for yesterday's public Majles session was Mr 'Alireza Farzad, deputy from Taft, Bafq, and Mehriz. He discussed the matter of the occupation of the Popular Support Attraction and Guidance Staff [Setad-e Jazb va Hedayat-e Komakhay-e Mardomi] Building by students at Amir Kabir University to solve their student housing problem. He said: In the last few days at Amir Kabir University something happened which is quite regrettable. The need of a group of students for a place to reside and the fact that they had been homeless for some time, with in one case more than 70 students living in the basement of a building, led to the occupation of the Popular Support Attraction and Guidance Staff Building belonging to the Mobilization of the Oppressed, on the assumption that the work of this staff was over. The students themselves admitted that they were not invited and had made a mistake doing this, but a question remains, and that is that when students do not even have a 12-meter room to house four to five and sometimes six to seven students, why are there many places belonging to property owners, some of them traitor capitalists and fat cats, and sometimes organizations and units in the city which are not being appropriately or sufficiently used? He added: We are faced with a shortage of student housing at a time when the implementation of even a part of Principle 49 of the Constitution could solve the problem.

It is sad when, in an Islamic society, not far from multi-level apartment buildings, mansions, grand homes, great investments, and uncounted wealth, a group is driven to poverty, indigence, and homelessness, and another group is driven by the pressure of this poverty, impotence, injustice, and isolation to commit this illegal act.

One might ask, why a government building, and a good one owned by the mobilization, when they could have occupied the home of a capitalist or some other building. In answer one must say that actually occupation without legal authorization has no meaning. It is the duty of officials of the government, the revolution, the law, law enforcement, and the judicial power to work to eliminate these gaps and injustices, so that, God willing, unprincipled actions will not be taken by people who are themselves the cause, the owners, and the protectors of the revolution.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Mr Farzad said: Unfortunately some time ago we saw the evacuation of a number of rented centers, schools, grade schools, and centers of education. They were given the order to evacuate, and in some cases we see the evacuation and the return of confiscated buildings and apartments to their owners who in previous years of the revolution did not even have the courage to show themselves.

Mr Farzad added: Another problem that is worrying for the future of the universities and centers of learning is the juxtaposition of government universities with the non-government system of higher education. Definitely, the emphasis and the unbridled growth of higher education in the private sector without sufficient investment and support for government universities to match the enormous and unlimited investments for the private sector universities is producing serious discrimination, and the worry remains that they will even take over the rented buildings and even the property, resources, personnel, and professors of the government sector universities, but revolutionary patience and change knows no borders and the necessary favor must be granted to the basic problems of the classes of society as well as the living accommodations and needs of students, especially housing.

The speaker then added: Following the occupation of this building, the police evacuated the occupied building using unprincipled methods far from worthy of our government and revolution, and the representatives of the people are definitely aware of the violence that was inflicted on the students. In that we consider this procedure and this type of encounter unworthy of this system, government, Majles, and revolution, we are opposed to it, and unfortunately following that encounter an innocent interview by a guild movement, whose only purpose was to procure student housing, is being branded as political, and this could intensify the problem, and apart from this the entire world is trying to make its political problems a trade guild affair, but unfortunately an official in this government has interpreted this trade guild activity by students as a political measure.

He stressed that we know almost all the university students of our nation. The universities are the bases of the revolution, and in years past and prior to the revolution the universities played their part in giving shape to the revolution alongside the various classes of this society and the people. The great imam said that the university students are in the same ranks with the clergy and that the universities are in the same ranks with the seminaries, and on the eve of the 13 Aban [4 November] observances the dear leader of the Islamic Republic referred to the role of youth and the university students and discussed their importance. We are on the verge of rebuilding the nation and in the years of reconstruction the youth and university students will certainly play a major and prominent role. If we do not recognize their position and take note of their basic needs, and if we deal with them in this way without taking calculated measures and without coordinating with higher education officials, we will certainly have irreparable damage. It is incumbent upon officials to coordinate any encounter with university students for any purpose with higher education officials.

The Taft deputy said: The Majles and the representatives of the people are certainly opposed to the type of encounter that took place at Amir Kabir University, and they are pursuing the matter seriously. Just as the respected speaker of the Majles promised the student representatives, the matter will be pursued, and if necessary explanations will be asked of those responsible.

In conclusion, he said: Our government is opposed to the encounter that took place with the students, and it is not worthy of this government to deal in this way with beatings and to come into the area with clubs, and we ask the students to build the universities in a way worthy of the government, aware, free, and revolutionary, and to grow.

The Majles Speaker's Remarks

As this session continued, Mr Karrubi, speaker of the Majles, made some comments.

He began by saying: Just as our brother Mr Farzad said, the problem has two sides. The mobilization, the komitehs, the students, and the clergy all are holy in their own way, and these people are the friends of the revolution. Anyone who violates the law will naturally be dealt with, and everyone must obey the laws and regulations.

He explained: No one supports that violence and clashing, but the entry of the students and their occupation of a building where mobilization sisters were working and where money and weapons are kept was a mistake, and later the students were warned to go outside and refrain from what they were doing, and unfortunately, it is reported that university officials were also involved.

The Majles speaker then addressed the deputies, stressing that problems of this kind must not be dealt with in the Majles, and if it is raised both sides of the case must be justly explained.

He added: A trade guild affair ought not to be treated as a political matter in the Majles, and apart from that it is not proper to raise the issue here.

Mr Karrubi added: I state plainly that I am opposed both to what was said by Mr Ranjbar at the last session and to what has been said by Mr Farzad, because this great and free Majles tribune is for awareness, and what form can the presentation of issues of this kind take?

The Majles speaker added: I spoke with the police officials by telephone, but when I spoke with the students themselves they said that there was money there and the sisters were there, and that they were told repeatedly to leave the place.

He explained that if they are permitted to go and take over any place it will be impossible to live and we will no longer have a government. Therefore, we do not sacrifice what we perceive to interests and policies. We are all touched and disturbed by this case. Continuing his remarks, Mr Karrubi congratulated the Muslims of the world, especially the Muslim and revolutionary nation of Iran, on the birthday of Mas'ud, the eleventh bright star in the constellation of imams, and on the vice-regency of His Holiness Imam Hasan 'Askari (peace be upon him).

He also offered congratulations and condolences to the survivors, especially Mr Hojati, representative of the people of Miyaneh, on the martyrdom of Haj Mohammad 'Ali Baqerzadeh, supervisor of the strike group and an official on the Bayt ol-Zahra staff of the Air Force of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who died during service to Sistan flood victims. In conclusion he emphatically called upon all deputies to be fully observant of the system and to try to arrive at the Majles sessions at the prescribed time.

Memos from the Majles Deputies

Memos from the Majles deputies to the nation's executive officials at yesterday's public Majles session were read as follows:

- Mr Hoseyni Kuhestani, Behshahr deputy, to the minister of health and treatment concerning the procurement of a surgeon and a gynecologist.
- Mr Maruji, Borujerd deputy, to the minister of roads and transport concerning the creation of a beltway road in the city of Ashtaritan.
- Mr Rowhanizadeh, Qa'emshahr and Savadkuh deputy, to the interior minister concerning continued implementation of the 4/14/68 [5 July 1989] Council of Ministers authorization to alleviate deprivation in

the municipality of Savadkuh, and to the Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization concerning implementation of Paragraph 3 of the Council of Ministers authorization to provide the Savadkuh region with the necessary facilities.

- Mr Qasemi, Varezqan deputy, to the minister of roads and transport concerning the rapid establishment of a road patrol on the Varezqan-Siyahrud and Tabriz roads and Moshk Anbar-Varezqan. To the minister of health and treatment concerning equipping the health care centers of Varezqan District, and to the minister of petroleum concerning the procurement of oil for East Azarbaijan Province, especially Varezqan District.
- Mr Borumand, Moghan deputy, to the minister of energy concerning speeding water service operations in the city of Garmi and beginning the work of the water purification organizations in the 32 Parsabad villages, and to the interior minister concerning the establishment of a revolutionary komiteh in Pileh Savar, and to the minister of agriculture concerning solving the problem of Moghan cotton growers.
- Mr Damadi, Sari deputy, to the minister of energy concerning speeding implementation of the Gachin dam, and to the interior minister concerning dealing with the situation in the district office at Chahar Dangeh and sending an investigator.
- Mr Tateli, Marivan deputy, to the Reconstruction Staff concerning allocation of credit and procuring construction materials for the Marivan Housing Foundation, and to the minister of commerce and the Flour and Bread Council concerning dealing with the bread situation in Marivan, and to the minister of housing and urban development and the Urban Lands Organization concerning the transfer of donated land to those whose property is included in the project.
- Deputies Gharibani, Tanehkaran and Qazi-Pur of Ardebil to the interior minister concerning the announcement of legal obligations and prerogatives of the deputy governor-general and the governor of Ardebil and seeing to their implementation.
- Mr Nariman, Babol deputy, to the minister of energy concerning the revision of the price of water.

Majles Proceedings

After the pre-agenda speeches and the reading of the deputies memos to the nation's executive officials, the Majles began its agenda to consider the bill amending the National Retirement and Pension Employment Law, and with the approval of 13 additional articles the above bill received final approval.

The articles approved are as follows:

Article 3: For every year of employment beyond 30 years by employees who serve more than 30 years according to the need of the organization and the employee's consent and who have reached or who reach the highest salary grade in their group or the equivalent, a rial amount equivalent to their salary level in the relevant group or the equivalent will be added to their salaries, and this will be included in calculations to determine their retirement pay, but any bonuses paid as incentive to serve more than 30 years will not be included in calculations to determine their retirement pay.

Note 1: The net salary increases provided in this article at the time of retirement, death, or disability will go to the maximum retirement pension provided in Article 4 concerning employees of this type.

Note 2: Workers included in this article who have paid retirement deductions or insurance premiums for 30 years will be exempt from paying retirement deductions, but the employer's share of retirement deductions in the acceptable years of the employee's service for determining their retirement pensions will be deposited in the government employees and retiree welfare fund by the employee's organization.

Note 3: Organizations may deduct a maximum of one-fourth of the weekly hours worked by employees included in this article in specialist occupations.

Article 4: The maximum retirement pension and disability and survivor's payments provided in this law in relation to the maximum retirement pension enacted in the month of Khordad 1361 [22 May-21 June 1982] by the Majles will be set at four-thirds, and its minimum will be set at two-fifths of the highest figure in the salary table in Article 32 of the National Employment Law.

Note: The Council of Ministers is authorized, where necessary, to increase the minimum figure set in this article.

Article 5: Retirement and disability pensions for survivors and those retiring, becoming disabled, or dying and the total payments to survivors of official employees included in the National Employment Law who are participants in the National Retirement Fund with regard to retirement and pensions and who retired, became disabled, or died before the end of 1364 [20 March 1986] will be increased by by 20 percent. The pensions of employees who retired, became disabled, or died between 1/1/1347 [21 March 1968] and the end of 1368 [20 March 1990] will be supplemented with 1 percent allowances in addition to the aforementioned 20 percent (at the rate of .5 percent per year) for every 2 years in which retirement deductions were taken from permanent benefits, work allowances, or employment benefits (the above increases will not be made for years of service deducted for early retirement). On the condition that all increases provided in this article for the employees in question do not exceed 30 percent of retirement pensions, disability payments and survivor's pensions, the year's deduction will be computed for 1 year.

Note: With regard to employees who have been permitted to retire early, wages for actual years of service without the forgiven years will be the basis for computing the increase provided in this article.

Article 6: The pensions paid to legal survivors as provided in Article 86 of the National Employment Law pertaining to pensioners will be set as follows:

A: In instances with one survivor, four-fifths of the retirement pension will be paid provided that it does not exceed one-half of the maximum retirement pension.

B: If there are two, three, or four survivors, one-twentieth, two-twentieths, and three-twentieths respectively will be added to the pension provided in Paragraph A. Where there are two survivors, their total pensions will not exceed two-thirds of the maximum pension.

J: If there are five or more survivors, the entire retirement pension will be paid to them.

Note 1: Total pensions paid to survivors shall not in any case be less than the minimum amount set by regulations.

Note 2: Whenever the share of one of the survivors is no longer paid, it will be paid in equal parts to the other survivors, and in view of the number of survivors, their shares will never exceed the percentages provided by this article and the relevant increases.

Note 3: As before, the pensions of female children will be set and paid on the basis of Article 9 of the Manpower Adjustment Law and its note.

Article 7: The ministers and government institutions covered by the National Employment Law, and the municipalities, institutions, and government companies not covered by this law whose employees participate in the National Retirement Fund, as well as the institutions covered by Note 1 of Article 71 and Note 2 of Article 73, are required to deposit from their budgets a monthly 15 percent of all the wages and benefits mentioned in the above article as the employer's share to the National Retirement Fund.

Note: In calculating the net retirement pension, eight-fifths of the employee's retirement deduction will be the basis for calculation.

Article 8: The articles and notes in the retirement section of the National Employment Law are amended as follows:

A: In Note 2 Article 71, the term "base group wage" is changed to read "wages and difference in comparable wages."

B: In Article 72 the word "wages" is changed to the phrase "bonus employment wage".

C. In articles 80 and 83 the term "full salary" is changed to the phrase "full salary and difference in comparable wages and bonus employment wage".

D: In Note 1 Article 85 the term "average salary" is changed to the phrase "full salary and difference in comparable wages and bonus employment wage".

H: In Note 2 Article 85 the term "first official base wage" is changed to the phrase "first wage of the official base and group and the difference in comparable wages and bonus employment wage".

V: In Article 100 the terms "wages and benefits" and "difference in wages" is changed to the phrase "full salary and difference in comparalbe wages and bonus employment wage".

Z: In Note 1 Article 117 the term "full salary" is changed to the phrase "salary and difference in comparable wages".

Article 9: Concerning employees covered by the Employment Regulations for Government Companies enacted 3/5/1352 [26 May 1973] as well as the organizations who have special employment regulations which are covered by this law, and where terms such as 'employment benefits' are used in their employment regulations instead of the term 'employment benefits' (given in Article 38 of the National Employment Law), and who are subject to retirement deduction payments, subject to the approval of the National Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization they are covered under the portions of this law that refer to bonus wages.

Article 10: Employees in specialist occupations may, on request and with the approval of their organization, be exempt from Article 77 of the National Employment Law.

Article 11: All retirement funds and comparable accounts with the exception of the Retirement Fund for those Covered by the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces Employment Law and the Social Security Fund for Workers are combined to form a fund called the Government Worker Retirement and Retiree Welfare Fund. All pensions, assets, deposits, documents, papers, agreements, and the employees who administer them are to be transferred to the Government Worker Retirement and Retiree Welfare Fund.

Note 1: All official and permanent staff who are covered by the Social Security Fund on the date of this law will participate in the Government Worker Retirement and Retiree Welfare Fund.

Note 2: No more than 6 months from the date of this law's enactment the charter for the above fund and the regulations for determining the status of workers and staff covered by the above funds under the National Employment Law will be prepared by the National Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization with the cooperation of the above funds and after validation by the Council of Ministers and approval by the Majles Administrative and Employment Affairs Commission, the regulations will be enforceable. The government must, in no more than 1 year, prepare and submit to the Majles a bill to coordinate payment of retirement wages and pensions to participants in the combined funds.

Article 12: No later than 5 years from the date of this law's enactment, the government must deposit in the Government Worker Retirement and Retiree Welfare Fund all outstanding debts resulting from non-enforcement of the provisions in notes 1 and 2 of Article 73 of the National Employment Law.

Article 13: In all cases where the term "National Retirement Fund" is used in laws and regulations, it shall be replaced by the term "Government Worker Retirement and Retiree Welfare Fund".

Article 14: The executive guidelines for this law will be prepared in no more than 2 months by the National Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization and approved by the Council of Ministers.

Article 15: The provisions of this law are effective as of 1/1/1369 [21 March 1990] and all conflicting regulations are void as of that date.

At yesterday's public Majles session the bill to create coordination and equilibrium in the allocation of credit for development projects in Paragraph A and Paragraph J Note 15 in the 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] National Budget Law, which had been rejected by the Plan and Budget Commission, was presented for first consultation and rejected in its entirety.

Yesterday's public Majles session ended at 12:15.

Next Sunday morning's Majles session will be public.

Pakistan

Spokesman Views SAARC Summit, Afghan Settlement

BK1812131889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Sri Lanka has proposed to hold the fifth summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] in Colombo in March or April next.

The proposal was conveyed by the Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa, to the Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, during his recent visit to Colombo as a special envoy of the SAARC chairperson and the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto. President Premadasa hoped that the Indian troops would be withdrawn by that time, as requested by his government.

A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that the SAARC chairperson will hold further consultations with member states to finalize the date of the summit.

The spokesman said no specific formula has been evolved on a political settlement in Afghanistan during the Malta summit between President Bush and President Gorbachev. The spokesman reiterated Pakistan's principled stand and said it is their endeavor to bring about a political solution of the Afghanistan problem so that more than 3 million Afghan refugees now in Pakistan could return to their home in dignity and honor.

Further Comments Noted

BK1812160789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] The UN secretary general has proposed that all Afghan opposition groups come together and lay down a specific mandate for resolving the Afghan problem. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that Pakistan has taken positive note of this proposal, and it wants Perez de Cuellar to pursue his initiative in this connection. The secretary general had sent two emissaries to Moscow, and he himself will go to the Soviet Union next month to hold further consultations with the Soviet leaders. On the possible role of former Afghan King Zahir Shah in the future Afghan setup, the spokesman said this should be decided by the Afghan people themselves.

The spokesman said the Afghan problem was considered during the recent Malta summit between President Bush and President Gorbachev, and it will be further discussed at a meeting of the foreign ministers of the two countries next month.

The spokesman said Sri Lanka has proposed holding the fifth summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] in Colombo in March or April next year. The proposal was conveyed by Sri Lankan President Premadasa to Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan during his recent visit to Colombo as a special envoy of the SAARC chairperson and prime minister, Benazir Bhutto. President Premadasa hoped that the Indian troops would be withdrawn by that time, as requested by his government. The spokesman said the SAARC chairperson will hold further consultations with member states to finalize the date of the summit.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan also visited the Maldives and apprised President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of his talks with the Sri Lankan leaders. Mr Gayoom said the Maldives is keenly interested in holding the sixth SAARC summit at the end of next year in Male. The spokesman said the foreign minister also held talks with the leaders of Sri Lanka and Maldives on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the fourth SAARC summit held in Islamabad.

Answering a question, the spokesman said it is yet to be decided when the Pakistani foreign minister will go to New Delhi for consultations with Indian leaders.

'Terrorist' Arrested for Planting Bomb on Plane

BK1812153189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] The terrorist who planted a bomb on the Saudi Airlines plane before its departure from Islamabad on the 23d of last month has been arrested. According to the

Federal Investigation Agency, the terrorist, who is an Arab national, has confessed his crime.

He has admitted that at the airport he gave a bag containing a time bomb to a Saudi national, (Abu-'Ammar), going to Saudi Arabia. The terrorist claimed that he planted this bomb to claim a $15 million ransom, and he wanted to use this money for jihad [holy war]. He said he told (Abu-'Ammar) that someone would receive this bag in Saudi Arabia. (Abu-'Ammar), who is under Saudi police custody, is being brought to Pakistan on the Federal Investigation Agency's request for further interrogation.

The Saudi Airlines plane was asked by the civil aviation authorities to land at Karachi after receiving information concerning a time bomb on the plane. The time bomb did not explode due to displacement of the battery in the timing device.

Officer on 'Most Deadly' Antiaircraft Missiles

BK1512160489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Pakistan has started assembling the world's most deadly antiaircraft laser-guided RBS-70 missiles. At a briefing in Sargodha, the general officer commanding the Army Air Defense, Major General Agha Masud Hasan, said that these missiles could hit any flying object, including aircraft, helicopters, and pilotless aircraft, within a 5-km radius with 100-percent accuracy. The RBS-70 is a missile that can neither be jammed nor be deceived by aircraft.

Agha Masud Hasan said that in connection with the air defense system, more attention is being paid to the development of equipment using indigenous technology. Under this policy, a master plan has been prepared and successfully executed, which has led to the creation of a strong ground air defense system that is very inexpensive and will prove highly effective in dealing with any threat. Other achievements of the Army Air Defense include the production of pilotless, remote-controlled aircraft, armored personnel carriers and radars, and also improving guns on modern lines and installing computer systems in guns currently in use so that they can remain effective until the end of the century. The general officer commanding the Army Air Defense particularly thanked Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, who has given a gift of the shoulder-fired Anza missile, which has been produced in Pakistan and whose striking range is 4.2 km. The missile weighs 9.5 kg.

Pakistan has already installed the laser-guided RBS-70 and Anza missiles on armored personnel carriers so that they can be easily used in the event of war. These two missiles are being tested in the ongoing military exercise codenamed "Zarb-i-Momin," Agha Masud Hasan announced.

Court Grants Bail to Murder-Implicated Minister

BK1912002489 Hong Kong AFP in English 2002 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, Dec 18 (AFP)—The Lahore High Court Monday granted interim bail before arrest to a minister in Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's cabinet implicated in a double murder case, court sources said.

The defendant's lawyers contended that Labour Minister Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Awan had "not participated in the actual occurrence and the only allegation against him was that he was a party to a criminal conspiracy hatched on July 26, in pursuance of which the murder was committed on August 17."

They said that according to early information it was only a "verbal conspiracy" under which arms were allegedly supplied to the attackers.

The court asked Mr. Awan, accused of involvement in the killing of two student leaders in the southern city of Multan, to cooperate with the police in the investigation before appearing on January 9 for a regular hearing.

Sri Lanka

President Asks Politicians for Help on Problems

BK1812110489 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1005 GMT 18 Dec 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 18 (LANKAPUVATH)—President Ranasinghe Premadasa yesterday invited all political parties to throw in their lot with the government to promote national harmony and solve the national problems in the true spirit of democracy. In a stirring speech at the 35th UNP [United National Party] annual convention at the Sugathadasa Stadium yesterday President Premadasa said, "Let us build mutual confidence and understanding by reaching consensus on areas where we can agree. There can be many areas where political parties can agree and work out consensus programmes without sacrificing their political ideologies."

The president said that the All-Party Conference [APC] was convened in pursuance of the promise held out in the party manifesto to usher in peace through the process of consultation, consensus and compromise. Thirteen issues had been identified by the APC as a prerequisite to solving the national crisis. "I invite all parties to rise above party politics to resolve at least these issues," he said.

Referring to the UNP's national executive committee meeting held at the party headquarters on Saturday [16 December], the president said that it provided the party an opportunity for self-appraisal, a review of their performance since the new government under his leadership assumed office. "I promised an open government. One that is subject to public scrutiny" he said.

The president said that democracy derives its strength from the availability of alternatives and constructive criticism. "Criticism alone will serve no purpose. It should always offer an alternative as well," he said.

Commenting on the system of provincial council administration, the president said that his belief was in an administration that protected the rights of all sections of the population. "I don't believe that rights of a people depend on the numerical strength of the ethnic group they belong to. Rights of a people is determined on the basis of human values and by no other criterion. We are trying to safeguard the rights of all communities because our policies are built on a humanitarian base. No wonder, despite problems, the UNP is still the people's choice."

Recalling various proposals on constitutional and administrative changes that came up after summoning of the APC, the president said: "Some proposed an interim government. Some a provisional government. Still some others wanted an all-party government. We pointed out to those who made these proposals that a government of constituents subscribing to divergent views and policies will only leave the way clear for those conflicts raging outside the government to enter even the cabinet. Some said that the president should sit in Parliament. But it is the people who have the power to decide on such a change. That's why we said we were prepared to face a referendum on the issue," he said.

Security Forces Kill 8 'Subversives,' Seize Arms

BK1712104289 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0956 GMT 17 Dec 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 17 (LANKAPUVATH)—Eight subversives were killed in separate incidents yesterday. A government communique issued today states that during a search operation in Kandy subversives fired at the security forces. The forces returned fire killing two subversives. The communique further states that a security forces mobile patrol was ambushed in Kandy by subversives. Security forces counter attacked killing one subversive.

In Galle, during a search operation security forces killed five subversives. The communique also states that security forces defused a bomb at the Teldeniya bus depot. At Angunawela, security forces arrested one subversive and recovered 3 repeater shot guns, one double barrel shot gun, five 12 bore shot guns, hand grenades, 52 rounds of ammunition, 500 kgs of explosives and army uniforms.

At Kuppiyawatte in Colombo, 14 suspected subversives were arrested by the security forces. In Kegalle, four hard core subversives were arrested at Taliyadde by the security forces. During cordon and search operations in Bandarawela, Ella and Passara, in the Uva Province, security forces arrested 28 subversives. In Monaragala, during a search operation security forces recovered 1 volt meter, several rolls of wire and batteries.

In the North Western Province district of Kurunegala, 16 slabs of gelignite was recovered by the security forces from a subversive hideout at Potuhera. Four persons gave themselves up to the security forces. Meanwhile, in Gampaha, unknown persons abducted L.E.A. Jothisena and his two children. Having removed a motor cycle, a sewing machine and a water pump from the house they set fire to the house. In Galle, unknown persons shot and killed an interdicted grama sevaka [village-level official] at Meetiyagoda.

In Monaragala, a school teacher Tillekeratne was shot and killed by unknown persons. Two grama sevakas and three others were killed in the North Western Province's Anuradhapura area, the communique states.